Taliban chief agrees to surrender Kandahar

Story Below, Col. 1

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2001 ★★ 90 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 362 ₱15

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Storm brings floods; 2 killed, boat missing

By PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Heavy rains spawned by tropical storm "Quedan" (international code-name: Kajiki) yesterday brought floods to key cities and towns in the Visayas, forcing over 2,700 families to flee their homes, authorities said.

At least two persons were reported killed, while a fishing boat with an undetermined number of crewmen was missing off Marinduque.

STORM/ A20

Serge O links 3 more payoffs to military

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Sergio Osmeña III is not quite done with his disclosure concerning the military's alleged partaking in ransom payments for the release of Abu Sayyaf hostages.

Osmeña yesterday said he had just learned of three more such cases, but qualified that unlike in the case of businessman Reghis Romero II, he was not certain whether President Macapagal-Arroyo had personal knowledge of these alleged ransom payments.

"There are three more pieces of information," he said, adding that a civilian informant phoned him yesterday to disclose other abductions involving the payment of millions of pesos in ransom that was allegedly facilitated by the military.

Asked whether his informant was reliable, he said: "Very reliable."

The President said Osmeña should tell her straight what he knew of Romero's case.

"I want him to tell me what he knows," she said in an interview with reporters at the Philippine Na-

SERGE/ A20

Malaysia in quandary over Misuari

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia would have to "rethink the status" of jailed Filipino rebel leader Nur Misuari if the Philippine government does not ask for his deportation, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said.

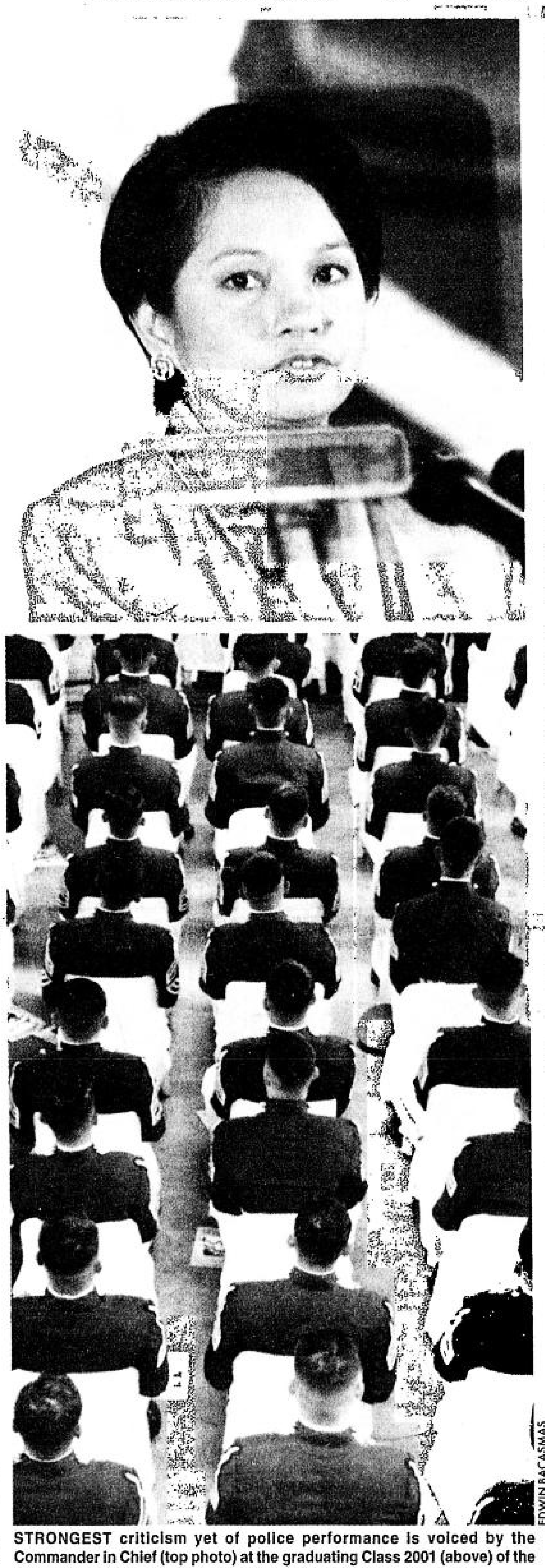
Mahathir said he hoped Malaysia would not have to release Misuari because it could leave the country open to accusations that it collaborated with terrorists.

"If they don't accept him back for whatever reasons and Nur Misuari has not committed any crime in Malaysia, then we have to rethink his status," Mahathir told reporters.

Asked if the government would have to release Misuari in those circumstances, Mahathir said: "We hope not, otherwise people will say we are collaborating with terrorists."

Malaysian officials have been saying for longer than a week that

MALAYSIA/ A11



EDWIN BACASMAS

STRONGEST criticism yet of police performance is voiced by the Commander in Chief (top photo) at the graduating Class 2001 (above) of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, on Thursday.

Poll shows 'weakest link' is Mike

By Carlito Pablo

THE STRING of scandals centering on Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo has taken its toll on the First Gentleman's reputation, the influential Social Weather Stations polling firm disclosed yesterday.

Among "public personalities involved in major controversies," Arroyo had the lowest net trust ratings, according to SWS.

Arroyo's public woes were shared by deposed President Joseph Estrada and controversial Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who have statistically similar "little trust" ratings, and by Estrada lawyers Rene Saguisag and Raymond Fortun, and chief Estrada prosecutor Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. All six suffered negative net trust ratings ("much trust" minus "little trust").

What they have in common, the SWS said, was "a large measure of public distrust."

The survey, conducted from Nov. 3 to 21, had an error margin of plus or minus 3, with a 95-percent confidence level.

Arroyo's travails have also had an impact on the President's trust ratings.

"Analysis of the SWS survey showed that public trust in First Gentleman Arroyo and public satisfaction in President Macapagal-Arroyo are strongly related to each other, implying that the President's record-setting rating in November would have been higher were it not for the controversy surrounding the First Gentleman," the SWS said in a statement issued yesterday.

The SWS earlier released the results of its regular fourth-quarter survey, which showed that the President earned a 53-percent satisfaction rating, her first absolute-majority rating since March.

The same survey showed that only 21 percent of the respondents expressed "much trust" in Arroyo while 42 percent expressed "little trust" in him, for a net rating of negative 21.

"Mr. Arroyo's new rating is more unfavorable than his previous net trust of negative 8 in the SWS survey of Sept. 1-18," the statement read.

Arroyo's spokesperson, lawyer Patricia Bunye, said the public "should not read too much into the net rating of negative 21 percent of Atty. Mike Arroyo." She added: "This net rating is not indicative of his guilt or involvement in any of the controversies currently surrounding him."

POLL/ A6

Angara firm asked: Who owns coco shares?

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Donna S. Cueto

UNDER whose names is the P50 billion worth of coco levy shares in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) registered?

Accra lawyers led by Sen. Edgardo Angara have to answer the question: Who are the principals of the 14 holding firms which purchased 31 percent of SMC during the Marcos regime?

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) wants to know.

Coconut farmers want to know and they want the Senate blue ribbon committee to extract the information from Angara's law firm.

The P50 billion is the subject of a proposed compromise settlement between several farmers' groups and the Philippine Federation of

ANGARA/ A20

GMA: Everything's been right . . . The dampener is peace and order

By Carlito Pablo

IN what appeared to be her strongest criticism yet of the performance of security and law enforcement agencies, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said peace and order remained the lone dark spot in her administration's efforts to revitalize the economy.

The President made the scathing remark in a speech before the graduating Class 2001 of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, which she delivered in the presence of Interior Secretary Jose Lina, whose jurisdiction includes the police, and PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza.

"Everything in the macroeconomic (level that) we're doing is right: budget deficit ceiling, monetary policy, economic legislation. Everything's been right," she said. "What is the dampener? The dampener is peace and order."

When Malacañang convenes the National Economic Summit on Dec. 10, "there will be a call for more focus on peace and order," the President also said.

She traced the current situation to ineffective and inadequate intelligence work.

"Our national woes and troubles, whether it is kidnapping, hostage taking, terrorism, etc., are products of a lack of effectiveness of pro-

GMA/ A6

Taliban leader agrees to surrender Kandahar

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar agreed Thursday to surrender his last major bastion Kandahar to tribal forces and put himself under the protection of tribal leaders, Afghanistan's interim leader and a Taliban official said.

Hamid Karzai, the US-backed head of a new interim government, told CNN that Taliban fighters would be allowed to disband and return to their homes.

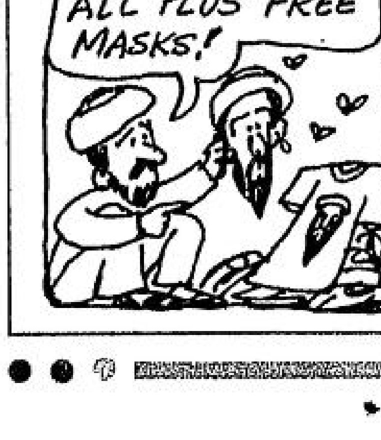
He said Omar would also be afforded protection if he promised to "renounce terrorism."

Karzai said it would take two or three days to work out the transfer of power. "It will be done in a slow and orderly manner," he said.

Any amnesty, Karzai told CNN, would apply only to "common Taliban" fighters, not to Omar.

He said there would be no safe passage for those linked to terrorism. "They must leave my

TALIBAN/ A20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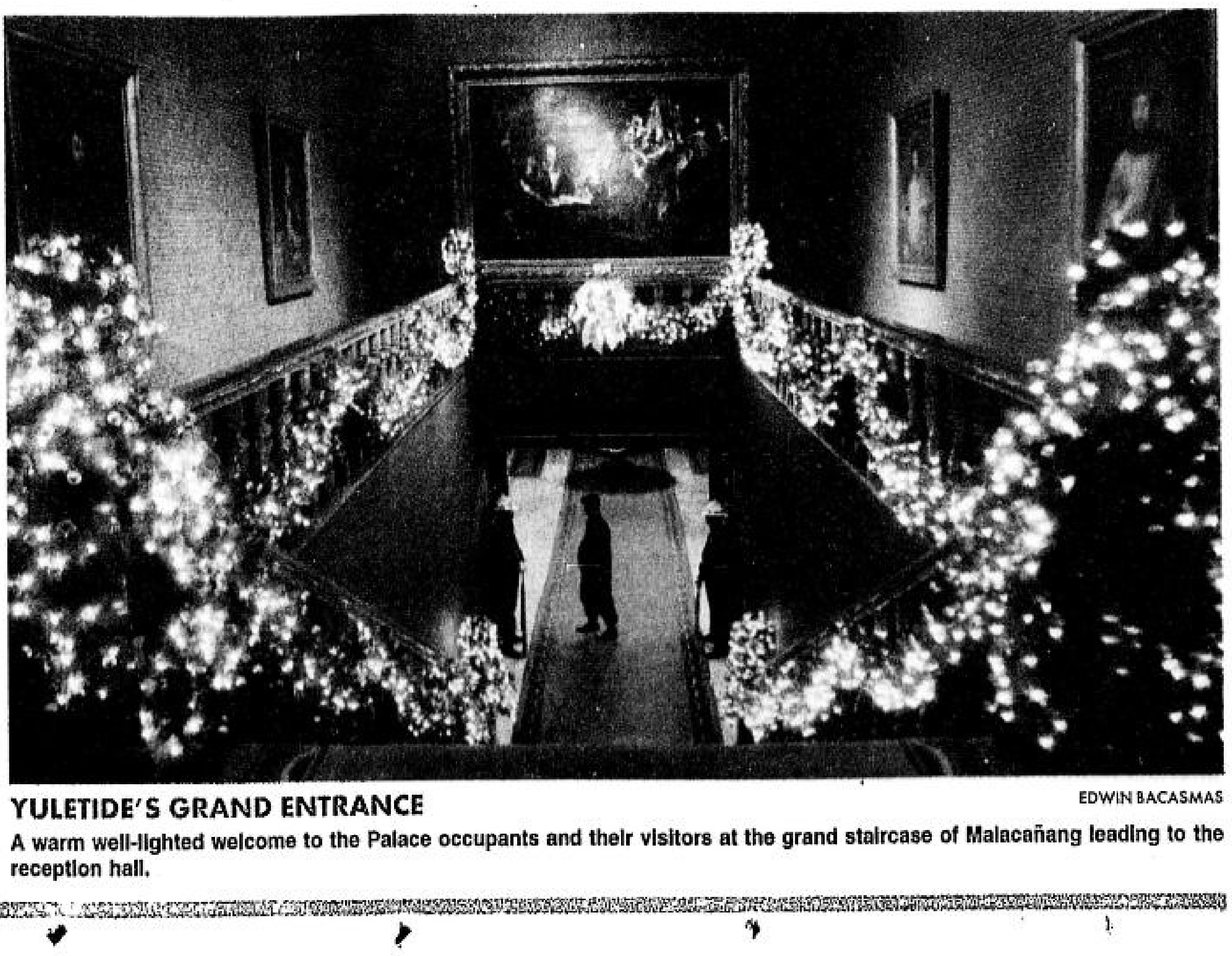
Bin Laden fad fast fading in Pakistan

KARACHI—Suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden may still be a hero for Islamic extremists but since the collapse of the Taliban hosts in neighboring Afghanistan, the "craze" has worn off for ordinary Pakistanis.

Jamil Ahmed, who runs a kiosk in downtown Karachi, said he used to sell hundreds of posters and masks of Bin Laden a day in the immediate aftermath of

BIN/ A20



YULETIDE'S GRAND ENTRANCE

EDWIN BACASMAS

A warm well-lighted welcome to the Palace occupants and their visitors at the grand staircase of Malacañang leading to the reception hall.

Second FRONT PAGE

Hmmp, lumalalim ang kwento!

Retired commodore missing

RETIRED Navy Commodore Juanito Veridiano mysteriously disappeared while aboard a Cebu-bound ship on the morning of Nov. 28 following a botched P15-million business deal involving US notes with a syndicate, police said yesterday.

Veridiano disappeared around 3:30 a.m. of Nov. 28 while on board MV Filipinas Dinagat en route to Cebu from Dumaguete. His wife, Cynthia, accompanied him on the trip, investigators of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said.

Since then, he has not been found. Maritime police have scoured the coastal waters off southern Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor but to no avail, Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the CIDG, told reporters.

Police voiced suspicions that one Bernardo Vallejo, alias Romy Palafox, had a hand in the disappearance of Veridiano, noting that their business transaction aboard the ship went awry.

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SENATE SHOWDOWN

Associates dispute Marcelo testimony

BELEAGUERED businessman Pacifico Marcelo will finally get to tell the Senate today what he had been telling the media—that President Macapagal-Arroyo had personally demanded from him a 51-percent controlling share of his telecommunications company.

But a close associate is just as ready to belie his allegations, saying Marcelo's testimony is part of a P200 million "destabilization" campaign against the President.

Jonathan T. Ojano, a close associate of Marcelo, filed a three-page affidavit with the Senate blue ribbon committee yesterday, alleging that "Marcelo is desperate and had decided to join the opposition to destroy the administration."

Ojano is vice president for government business of International Consultancy Group, which Marcelo heads.

In other developments:

- President Macapagal said she was not bothered by the scheduled testimony today of Marcelo, "unless he lies again and the people will believe him again."
- Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, has warned Marcelo against snubbing today's hearing, saying he will be forced to wrap up the investigation into the telecom bribery scandal without Marcelo's testimony.
- The National Bureau of Investigation said it is just waiting for a certification from the US Embassy that Marcelo is an American citizen before filing charges of perjury and violation of the anti-dummy law against him.

Extort plan

Ojano said that as early as September, Marcelo had shared with him the "idea of extorting $5 million from Mike Arroyo in exchange for maintaining his wife's position in government."

"I did not take that proposition seriously. I then joked that '*Pare, hindi yan kakagatin ni Mike. Kuripot yan, sabi ni Bing* Retirado. (Mike won't bite that because he is a spendthrift)," Ojano said. Retirado is a former member of Ms Macapagal's staff when she was still a senator.

Ojano and Retirado had also been summoned to today's hearing along with lawyer Jesulito Manalo, Voltaire Alcantara, Dante Madriaga, Guillermo Yanza Jr., Efrenito los Baños, Leah Ledesma, and Juliet Marcelino.

In his affidavit, Ojano said that, in October, "Marcelo told me that he had received an offer on how to recover his expenses in connection with the APC Wireless and PCCI franchises."

He noted that Marcelo had told him previously that he had already spent P40 million of his own funds in working for the passage of the PCCI franchise, which was later vetoed by Ms Macapagal.

Marcelo had alleged that the President personally asked Marcelo to give her controlling shares of the company in exchange for the recall of the veto.

"He also said that Senator (Edgardo) Angara had offered him double what he had already lost, or P80 million if Marcelo could and will directly link the President to the telecom controversy," Ojano said in his statement.

Destabilization fund

Ojano added that it was at about this time that "Marcelo revealed that the opposition supposedly has a destabilization fund to be used against the administration."

He said even Dante Madriaga, PCCI director, noted that Marcelo had been desperate and that it was to him that Marcelo admitted the existence of the P200 million "destabilization fund."

"He was paid from that fund," Ojano said.

Two other close associates of Marcelo, Juliet Marcelino and Leah Vargas Ledesma, personal secretary and Northern Pacific Link Corp. officer, respectively, also filed their affidavits with the committee late yesterday afternoon.

Marcelino and Ledesma both debunked claims made by Marcelo that Ms Macapagal had asked him to relinquish 51 percent ownership of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. in exchange for the recall of her veto.

"The charge of corruption against the President in allegedly trying to wrest 51 percent control over PCCI is simply a fabricated lie for if there was corruption or attempt to wrest control over PCCI, Marcelo would mentioned the same in the aforesaid story (he told me)," said Marcelino.*Rocky Nazareno, Cynthia Balana, Carlito Pablo and Philip Tubeza*

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Badoy stenographer fails to take 'lie' test

By P. C. Tubeza

SANDIGANBAYAN Justice Anacleto Badoy's stenographer failed to take a lie detector test at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday after his blood pressure shot up.

The polygraph test was reset while the NBI waits for Janno del Rosario's blood pressure to stabilize, a source at the bureau said.

The source, who requested anonymity, said some of Badoy's other staffers refused to take a similar test, give sworn statements, or be fingerprinted because "it would be incriminating."

The NBI is probing the disappearance of a court resolution written by Badoy which ordered the transfer of deposed President Joseph Estrada from his Veterans Memorial Medical Center detention suite to a specially built jail at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Del Rosario, the employee Badoy suspected of pilfering the resolution, "has a history of hypertension. We are just waiting for his blood pressure to stabilize. Maybe later this week (the test will proceed)," the NBI source said.

Del Rosario "voluntarily" went to the NBI yesterday with his lawyer Omar Sagadal.

But while Del Rosario agreed to take the lie detector test, some of Badoy's other employees refused to cooperate with the investigation.

The source said the NBI has lifted a set of fingerprints from Badoy's office and was able to get the fingerprints of three of his employees.

But other employees refused to submit their fingerprints or take a lie detector test because that would be "incriminating," the source said.

"They're all suspects. We take his (Badoy's) word for it that the document is missing and that he did not misplace it," the source said.

The investigator said the bureau would lift the employees' fingerprints from NBI records.

"We'd be surprised if the fingerprints lifted from the office did not belong to any of Badoy's employees," the source added.

Estrada on Badoy: Told you so

By V. Contreras and M. Ubac

LOOK who's ecstatic over the current woes of Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy.

"Everybody knows something is wrong with him," said jailed former President Joseph Estrada, who has never concealed his antagonism toward the magistrate who presides over his plunder trial.

In a phone interview, Estrada chuckled as he recalled the recent rash of incidents that have placed Badoy under the Supreme Court's scrutiny—like his use of an ambulance to get to a TV station last Thursday.

Badoy, chair of the anti-graft court's Third Division, gave an interview then on the alleged theft of a document related to the Estrada trial.

"Now there's this report that he once asked a court employee to kneel before him, and that he was seen sleeping in the hallway on the evening of Nov. 26 wearing only his underwear (*karsunsilyo*)," Estrada said, referring to a recent news report (not in this paper).

"Put two and two together and you'll sense something is wrong with him," the deposed leader said from his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Earlier in the trial, Estrada had openly complained about Badoy's alleged bias toward him.

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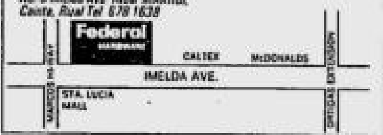

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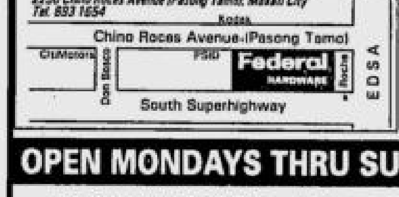

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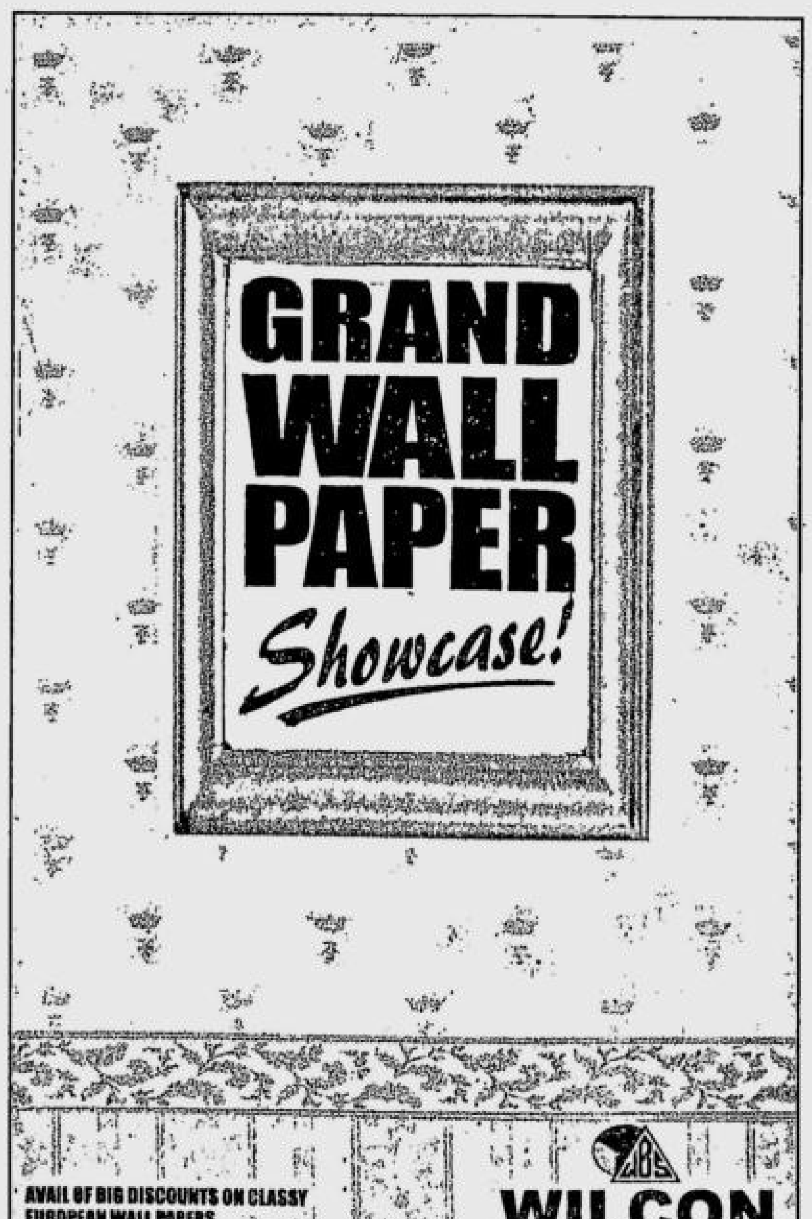
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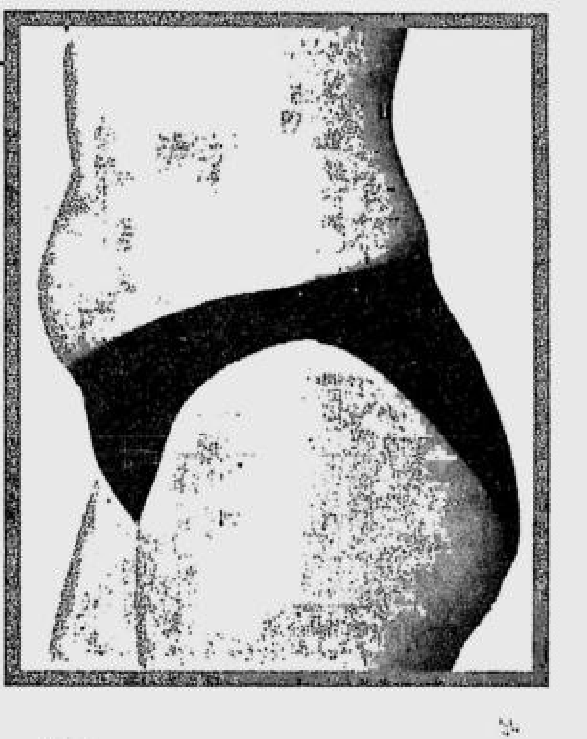

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NDF offers 1-month Christmas truce, prisoner swap

COMMUNIST rebels yesterday proposed a month-long Christmas ceasefire with the government and offered to free four hostages including a soldier to kickstart stalled peace talks.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the proposal by the National Democratic Front was "possible" although she would first get the recommendation of her security advisers.

"The NDF is ready, if the government is also willing, to observe a ceasefire from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15," exiled NDF chair Luis Jalandoni told dzMM radio here in a telephone interview from Utrecht in the Netherlands.

He stressed that the offer is conditional on the government signing a truce pact. "A one-sided truce would not be effective," he added.

"The NDF is also ready to improve the climate for peace negotiations by causing the release" of four people held by the rebels' armed wing the New People's Army, Jalandoni said.

He said the four, who supposedly include a Marine sergeant, were captured in the southern island of Mindanao in September. "We are ready to release them not later than Feb. 7," he added. He said the NDF will seek the release of several detainees, including Donato Continente, convicted killer of a US Army colonel.

Asked by reporters if she would accept the proposal, Ms Macapagal said: "It's up to the (negotiating) panel. And I will get the advice of the committee on security."

Her adviser on the peace process, retired general Eduardo Ermita, said security officials have not discussed any guidelines for a Christmas truce, although he acknowledged it has been the government's practice to declare a unilateral Christmas truce.

The communists had usually followed with their own unilateral ceasefire.

"Let's just wait for guidelines to be drawn up from next week toward Christmas time," Ermita told dzXL radio.

He said the government would also take into consideration violations of previous ceasefires by communist guerrillas.

The government suspended negotiations for a political settlement to the 32-year Maoist rebellion after the NPA assassinated two members of Congress in May and June.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao last month that for talks to proceed, there must be "some assurance from the NDF that they would cease their political assassinations."

Norway had hosted the previous rounds of negotiations.

AFP

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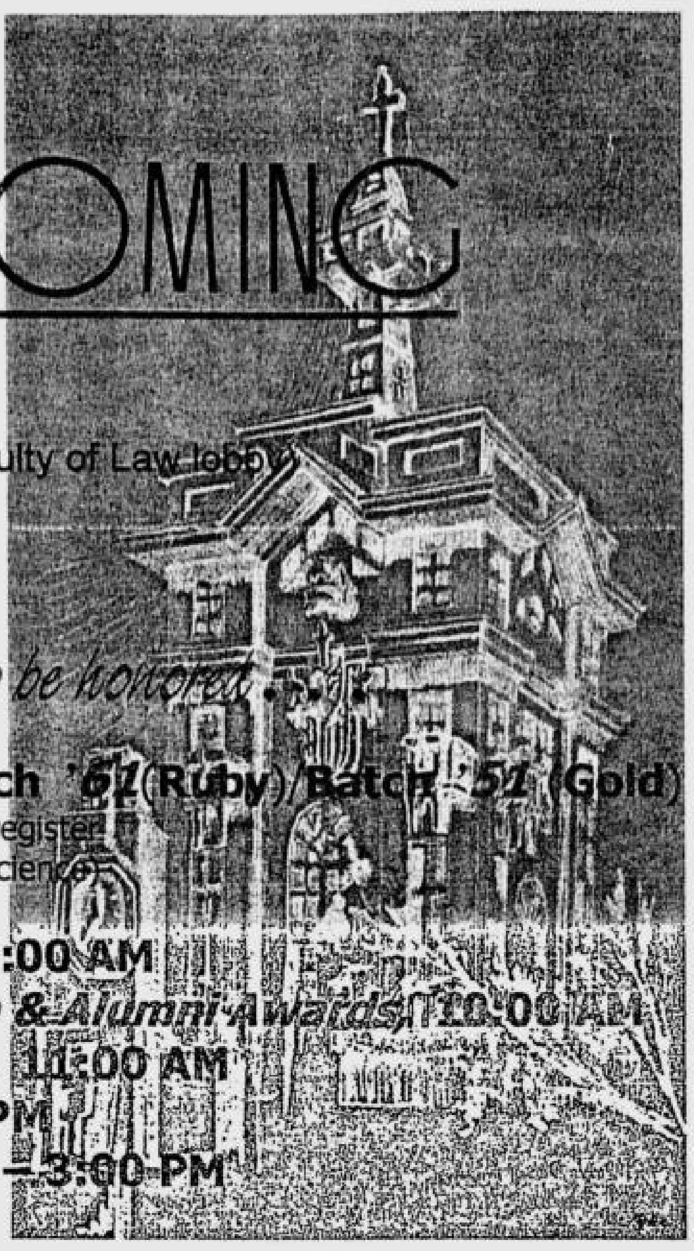

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3	P 4,000.00 to P 4,499.99	4,000.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	
4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
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Body of Pinay victim of Haifa blast here today

THE REMAINS of Rosalia Reyes, a victim of the Dec. 2 suicide bombing in the northern city of Haifa in Israel, will arrive today, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The family of Reyes and the four other Filipinos who were seriously injured in the terrorist bombing, will receive a package of benefits and compensation from the Israeli government, according to DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros.

"The five victims are all legitimate and documented workers, and will thus be entitled to full benefits under the Betuach Leumi or the National Security Insurance of Israel," he said.

Lecaros said the Israeli government was so "generous" that it will shoulder the cost of repatriating the remains of Reyes to Manila, the funeral expenses and other costs incurred for burial.

Reyes' remains will be flown in at around 5 p.m. via Swissair, he said. The body will be brought directly to Batangas for burial, Lecaros said.

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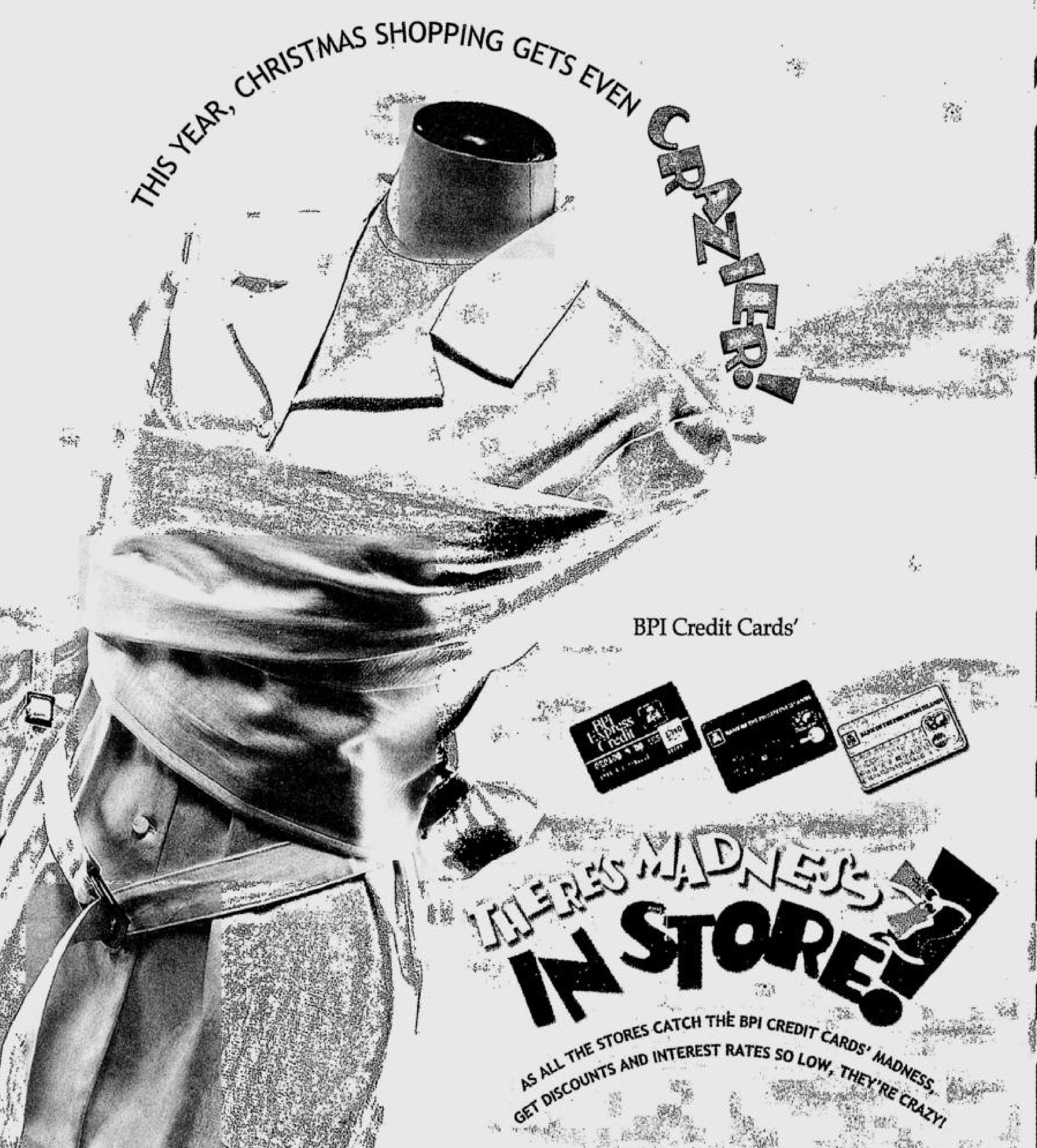
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Poll shows 'weakest link' is Mike with -21% rating

(From page A1)

Many of the principals in Estrada's plunder trial also suffered from negative trust ratings. Estrada had a "much trust" rating of 35 percent and a "little trust" level of 43 percent. Among the six personalities mentioned in the survey, Estrada had both the biggest "much trust" bloc (statistically the same since March) and the smallest "undecided" bloc—20 percent (statistically the same since January). Overall, Estrada's trust rating was negative 7, showing a small but steady improvement since March.

Between March and November, Desierto gained in national awareness, from an 80-percent level to 90 percent. But his "much trust" rating slipped from 37 to 24, and his "little trust" level rose markedly from 26 to 38. His net trust rating in November was negative 14. The number of undecideds in his case remained statistically the same.

"This is a reversal from the favorable net trust rating of plus 11 which he (Desierto) had obtained in March 2001," the SWS said.

ARROYO

Saguisag obtained a 32-percent favorable trust and a 36-percent distrust rate, for a net rating of negative 4.

The SWS noted that in December 1999, Saguisag, who had made a name as a human rights lawyer during the Marcos dictatorship, had a high 32-percent trust rating.

Fortun was included in an SWS survey for the first time. He earned a negative trust rating of 11 percent. Only 27 percent expressed trust in him while 39 percent had little trust in the young defense lawyer.

"Survey analysis also showed that the public's current lack of trust of former President Estrada is strongly connected to its lack of trust in his defense lawyers, and moderately related to its fairly high satisfaction with President Macapagal-Arroyo," the SWS said.

Lacson, accused by military intelligence chief Victor Corpus of involvement in heinous crimes such as drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom, had a favorable trust rating of 29 percent and an unfavorable rating of 44 percent. His negative 15-percent net trust rating was "not significantly different" from last September's negative 13.

"Both the November and September survey results are turnarounds from Lacson's favorable net trust ratings of plus 24 in February and plus 14 in January," the SWS said.

GMA: Dampener is peace and order

(From page A1)

grams based on a lack of adequate intelligence," she said, adding:

"And we should remember that the basic purpose of intelligence is to enhance national security by informing policymakers, supporting police as well as military operations, and providing analyses gleaned from all sources and packaging these in a timely and useful manner."

The President also announced that she would call an intelligence summit as the "next chapter" after the Dec. 10 economic summit, so "the intelligence agencies of the government can help me derive more responsive programs based on accurate and reliable information."

She said the national intelligence summit would have the following objectives: reorganization of intelligence-gathering units, public assessment of threats to national security, determination of information requirements, information sharing, establishment of a national intelligence data base, human resource development, and networking and counter-intelligence.

The summit, she said, would be organized by the National Security Council, with members of the academe, business sector, non-government organizations and groups involved in providing security as participants.

Laughing

But in an interview after her speech, the President softened what seemed like an indictment of the police, military and other government agencies engaged in law enforcement and intelligence.

Asked whether she was satisfied with the work of the PNP, she laughed and said: "Oh, you're going to put words into my mouth again."

She said a reexamination of Philippine intelligence work was not an extraordinary measure because the United States and Israel did the same in light of the terrorist attacks in their countries.

"Just like the US, after the (Sept. 11) World Trade Center bombing, they reexamined their intelligence, and even Israel after the suicide bombings," she said.

The President strongly denied that there was a breakdown in the country's intelligence services.

"No, not a breakdown, not a breakdown," she said. "All we really need is to upgrade the intelligence if you want to speed up the work against kidnappings and terrorist activities."

Growing

In her speech, the President said that because of good management, the gross national product posted a 3.7-percent growth in the first three quarters of the year despite the global recession.

She said inflation was at its lowest in 16 months, interest rates were at their lowest in the last six years, the peso had stabilized against the US dollar, and jobs were being created.

She also said the Philippines did not even need an economic regimen under the International Monetary Program.

"We are back on the radar screen of the world business community," she declared.

But the President lamented that while many things had been done to improve the peace and order situation, "a quantum leap" in law enforcement was required.

"There is a need to restructure the national intelligence capability not only because of police matters but (also) because we are in a post-cold war scenario," she said.

"The changing economic and security environment requires adequate intelligence through innovative means for a wide array of tasks for effective governance," she added.

The President identified the fields to be addressed by effective intelligence as military, political, economic, environmental and sociocultural, along with cyber security and ordinary peace and order.

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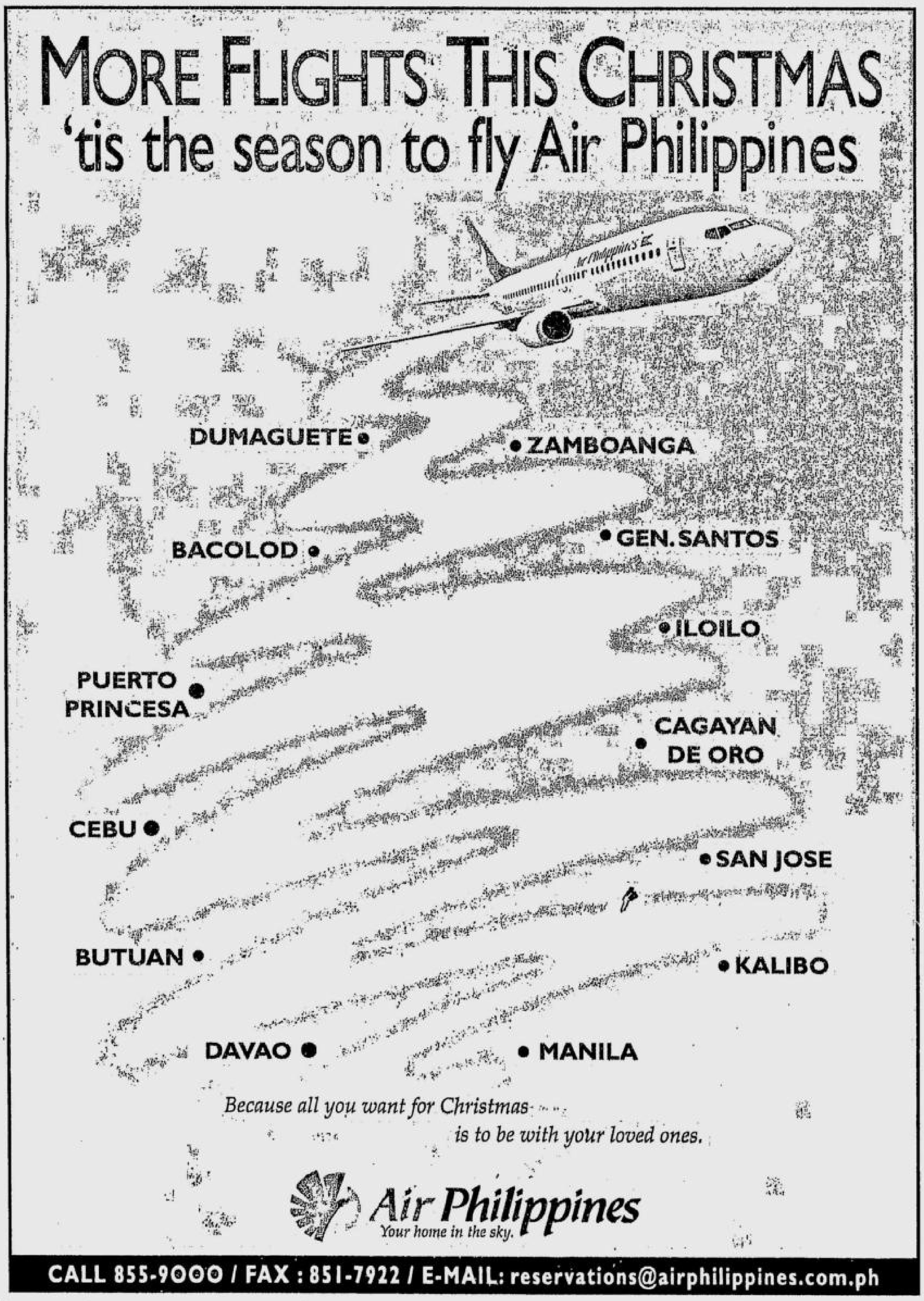
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Flavored condoms hit RP market

By A. Nocum

IT'S a sure bet today's young Filipinos would not remember the flavored panties of the '70s and '80s but their generation now has something new to mark their era—flavored condoms.

This after a local condom manufacturer launched yesterday its new line of multi-flavored and multi-colored condoms aimed at young Filipino users.

Makers of Trust condoms even introduced a "party pack" of 12 rubbers, "to facilitate the distribution of the protective sheaths at parties and wherever else the youth gather in large numbers."

But Benny Lapitan, marketing director of DKT International Inc. (Phil.)—a non-stock and non-profit organization—was quick to explain that the 12-piece party pack was not intended to encourage "sexual orgies."

"We just want to make sure the young have a big supply of it when needed," Lapitan said at the product launching of the condoms in Quezon City.

The condoms come in green (mint flavor), yellow (banana flavor) and orange (orange flavor).

Smaller size

The sheaths, which are slightly smaller than the ones already available in the market, are intended for use by young men aged 18 to 24.

The condoms cost P10 for a box of four and P25 for the 12-pack.

Lapitan said the flavored rubbers were produced in order to reach out to the young, most of whom do not protect themselves from sexual diseases or unwanted pregnancy.

"We have to reach out to them through a medium acceptable to them," he said, adding that the colors of the condoms were the kind "young adults love."

Even as DKT introduced the condoms, the Commission on Population (COP) reported that nearly two million young Filipinos continue to have unprotected sex despite the risk of infection with the AIDS virus, according to a new study.

Researchers at the University of the Philippines Population Institute found that 1.8 million men and 670,000 women began having sex around the age of 18, the COP said in a statement.

Eighty percent of the group "did not use any protection from sexually transmitted infections," including the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) that causes the deadly and incurable Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The Philippines has a total of 1,515 registered HIV carriers, with men aged between 19 and 30 accounting for 60 percent of the infected males and women aged 19-29 making up 40 percent of the infected females, the report said.

Tomas Osias, COP executive director, said the figures have significant implications because "roughly 60 percent" of the Philippine population of about 78 million is under age 24, and four out of every 10 Filipinos are under 15.

Napocor chief quits

NATIONAL Power Corp. president and chief executive officer Jesus Alcordo has resigned.

Alcordo submitted his letter of resignation "very recently" but President Macapagal-Arroyo "has not yet acted on it," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Alcordo's reason for quitting was not immediately known but he had offered to resign in September after a row with Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia over alleged anomalies in the insurance coverage of the state-owned power firm.

Alcordo had charged the GSIS with withholding $41 million in insurance claims by Napocor.*Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	**100,000**	29,049	20,858
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	134,000	31,066	22,306
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	130,000	30,259	21,727
Gas A/T	795,000	138,000	31,873	22,886

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Diesel M/T	675,000	335,000	11,534	8,421
GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
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EDITORIALS

Nuts

WE don't know if the National Bureau of Investigation realizes the irony of its statements on the psychological condition of Philip Medel Jr. Medel, it says in its findings, suffers from "hypomania." The symptoms of this condition are being over-talkative and hyperactive, having flights of fancy, and suddenly shifting from one topic to another.

"He's not really normal, but he's not psychotic," says Dr. Romel Papa, chief of the NBI neuro-psychiatric division. That is to say, his brain functioning has not been impaired but he cannot be relied upon to tell the truth as the rest of us know it. Certainly, he cannot be relied upon to tell the truth when he claims to have been tortured.

The irony does not lie in the authorities' freeing themselves from blame, though that is a huge irony enough in itself (you wonder what an independent doctor might find out from an examination of Medel). The irony lies in this: If Medel is off his rocker, slightly or otherwise, why in God's name did the Philippine National Police pick him up as a suspect? Why on earth did the PNP take his word at face value?

You grant that Medel was never tortured and forced to confess to the murder of Nida Blanca but that he willingly owned up to the crime. Now, surely the PNP knows better than to trust someone who does something like that? Here is a man who behaves oddly, who admits without duress to being a murderer, who talks volubly about being hired to kill Blanca, who implicates Blanca's husband for no reason at all, who supplies no motive for coming forward other than being seized by an attack of conscience. Would you believe him?

There's a saying that a wise man who argues with a fool is a bigger fool. What would you call sleuths who buy the story of someone who is off his rocker?

That is, of course, presuming that the PNP can be believed more easily than Medel. That they never picked Medel from out of the blue to serve as fall guy, that they never laid a hand on him, that they never forced him to confess. Which is a huge presumption, given the PNP's notoriety in this respect.

The NBI has given a rigorous psychological profile of Medel. It would be interesting if it could give as rigorous a psychological profile of the three cops who brought him in. Indeed, it would be interesting if it could give as rigorous a psychological profile of the PNP personnel as a whole. We do not know that it would find many of them to be suffering from hypomania. But it would not be farfetched to suppose it would find many of them to be far from being normal, even if they have not completely lost their brain functions.

Proof of that is that we are back to square one in the Nida Blanca murder.

Nuttier

THE REASON apparently why Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. of the sixth district of Manila wants to arm Manila residents is that Velma Cinco was ambushed and killed. Dire times, draconian measures. The authorities being powerless to defend them, the people must take their own defense into their own hands.

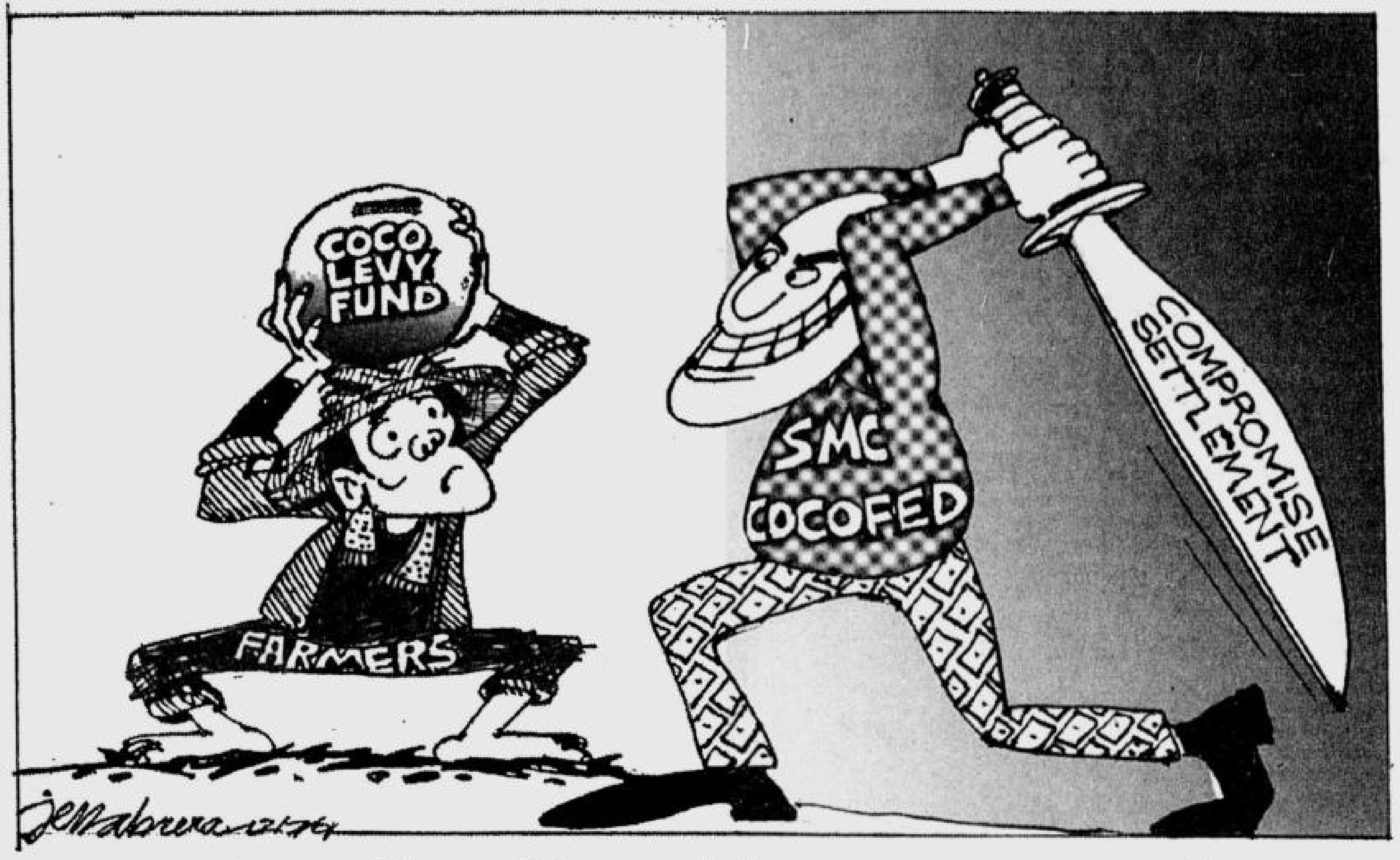
Well, we cannot say he lacked inspiration for this. The inspiration comes all the way from the top, the President of the Philippines herself arguing during the height of the kidnappings for arming barangays, particularly in Chinatown. Logarta merely took the cue from her.

But it is hard to see the logic of it. At the very least, what is it saying is, if you carry a gun in your car or on your person, you will be able to stave off an ambush. This overlooks a chapter of our history where rebels routinely gunned down cops to take their arms away, an operation called "Agaw Armas." You carry a gun, you become a more attractive target for criminals, not less.

We do know what happens when people carry guns in their cars or persons. It is not that they invite less mayhem, it is that they perpetrate more of it. How many people have died from being shot in a traffic altercation? The people who trust in the wisdom of carrying guns say guns do not kill, people do. But that overlooks people being seized by temporary insanity—that is at least the plea in court—such as by road rage. If Rolito Go were not carrying a gun, his victim would still be alive. Fists do not kill, guns do.

While at this, why should the public be penalized for the authorities' failure to protect them? If the PNP cannot ensure peace and order, the solution is to abolish it or change the men who run it. If the government cannot serve the citizens, the solution is for the citizens to stop paying their taxes.

At the very least, allowing the citizens to carry guns misses the target completely. At its very most, it hits another target: the innocent fellow who happens to be passing by.



Art raffle at Vargas Museum postponed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE AWARDING ceremonies for the winners of the NVM Gonzalez Short Story Awards will be held tomorrow, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. at the Vargas Museum in UP Diliman, but the raffle for artworks has been postponed until after the New Year.

How to apportion the tickets, prized at P5,000 each, is the problem. There are only 100 tickets but there are more than 300 people who reserved for tickets. The new date for the raffle will be announced later.

The winners in the short story contest, held annually in memory of the late National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzalez, are:

For the best published short story of the year: "Days of Darkness, White Nights" by Charlson Ong, P50,000.

Runners-up: "Death of Fray Salvador Montano, Conquistador of Negros" by Ma. Socorro C. Lucero; and "Fallout" by Ma. L.M. Fres-Felix.

For best first published short story: "Lavender" by Socorro A. Villanueva, P25,000.

Runners-up: "Intersection" by April Timbol Yap; and "Bundle" by Jan Philippie V. Carpio.

* * *

Instead of wasting so much time debating and hammering out a compromise settlement on the coco levy funds, why not hasten the resolution of the case in the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court? In the reams of copy being churned out over the P130-billion fund, no mention is made of hurrying up the case in the courts. The whole hullabaloo is actually the fault of the courts and the Presidential Commission on Good Government. The case is being litigated for 16 years now.

The PCGG seemed not to want to finish the case. PCGG nominees to the boards of directors of San Miguel Corp., United Coconut Planters Bank and other sequestered corporation using coco levy funds get such fat emoluments that they are loath to finish the case. So do the PCGG commissioners. If they had their way, they prefer a compromise settlement because it means there will be commissions. Although they will now have to share that with other "commissioners" and negotiators circling around the coco levy carcass like flocks of vultures.

But now that Haydee Yorac is head of the PCGG, she has ruled out any compromise. She wants to go on with the case. "We can finish it in two years," she said.

Why two years? Why not six months? That was the time the Supreme Court gave Sandiganbyan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to write the decisions for the backlog of more than 300 cases awaiting decision in his division. Six months is the usual deadline of trial courts to decide cases. Surely, if the PCGG, the Sandiganbyan and the Supreme Court buckle down to work, holding hearings more often instead of only once a month, they can finish the case. Where there's a will to finish the case (considering how important it is), there's a way.

* * *

It is not as if this is a very complicated case. The issue is simple: Is the coco levy a public or private fund? Does it belong to the government, representing the public, or to private persons?

The coco levy was a tax on copra sold by coconut farmers. Being a tax, therefore, it belongs to the public. The private persons represented by Danding Cojuangco and the Cocofed only used the fund to capitalize UCPB, oil mills and to buy controlling shares in SMC. They did not acquire the fund by using it. They only borrowed it and should pay it back—with interest. Cojuangco and the Cocofed already profited so much from money that does not belong to them, they should be glad to give it back.

The issue was confused only by a series of presidential decrees issued by President Marcos. We have already deposed him for crimes against the Filipino people, but why do we allow decrees issued during his dictatorship to confuse us?

The first decree was issued in 1973, one year into martial law. PD 276 created the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Fund which mandated that "a levy initially of P15 per 100 kilos of copra resicada or its equivalent in other coconut products shall be imposed on every first sale." The millers and end-users collected the levy that they cut from their buying price and remitted it to the Philippine Coconut Authority. At this initial stage, the collected levy was audited by the Commission on Audit being public funds.

Marcos issued other decrees that allowed his friend Cojuangco to use coco levy funds to purchase the ailing First United Bank of his relative, Don Jose Cojuangco, and rename it the United Coconut Planters Bank. That decree declared the UCPB as the depository bank of the coco levy funds. Cojuangco was named UCPB president and at the same time administrator of the coco levy funds.

Decrees also authorized the purchase of coconut oil mills and trading companies using coco levy funds to create a coconut monopoly called the United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom) with Cojuangco as president. Also using coco levy funds, 27 percent of SMC total shares was bought, instantly making Cojuangco chair of the giant conglomerate.

But the decree that put a monkey wrench on it all was PD 961 declaring the coco levy as "a private fund belonging to coconut farmers in their private capacity." This was intended to prevent the COA from looking into the coco levy funds and, at the same time, to make the coco farmers believe that the continuing exaction was for their own private interest.

To correct matters, President Ramos issued an executive order declaring the coco levy a "public" fund, but when Erap, a protégé of Cojuangco, became president, he issued another executive order declaring it "private."

Now comes President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who wants a compromise settlement allegedly because, according to the Philippine Consultative Assembly, she would get a P20-billion commission for her 2004 presidential campaign.

Old inventions, new inventions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONE thing that struck me when I first visited China 20 years ago was not the opulence and grandeur of its palaces but the simplicity and practicality of its people. The thing that amazed me at Tienanmen Square was not the huge structures that loomed in the horizon but the sea of bicycles that overflowed its banks.

There were thousands upon thousands of them in Beijing, made all the more awesome by being largely of the same make and color. I did ask our guide how their owners were able to tell them apart when they emerged from their schools and workplaces. He smiled—inscrutably. I suddenly felt like I had made a joke about the Chinese all looking alike. There were ways, he said sagely.

The bicycles were everywhere, and were king of the road. The cars and buses were the minority, plowing through the wide streets almost apologetically. People were not bicycling furiously, they were bicycling leisurely, some deep in thought, some in the throes of energetic argument or tender conversation. The last was a joy to see, couples bicycling side by side, making the kind of motion you see in synchronized swimming in the Olympics, chattering gaily. Romance in the '80s, Chinese-style. Most wore sweaters—it was bracing weather—while some carried umbrellas to protect them from a fine drizzle.

The air would often smell slightly of diesel from the fumes left by a lumbering truck. But it would be gone in an instant, to be replaced by the smell of pine and fruit.

I remembered this, when I read about an American inventing a contraption that promises to end the reign of cars in crowded cities. That invention is the Segway scooter, a venture kept in utmost secrecy in industrial circles, which was unveiled to the public some days ago in "Good Morning America." The device uses a battery and runs at a top speed of 27 kph. It has no motor but moves when the rider shifts his weight in the direction he wants. The catch: It still costs a pretty penny by Third World standards. The cheapest model goes for $3,000 and the more sophisticated one $8,000.

But it is certainly cheaper than a car. And an incalculable bargain if you factor in the cost of environmental degradation. The device is right after an environmentalist's heart: It is as clean as you can get. The invention, enthusiastic critics are raving, will revolutionize life as we know it. It is more important, says one, than the invention of cyberspace. Well, the Internet didn't take too long to take off, and it zoomed dizzyingly once it did, sending businesses that still think in terms of renting physical spaces biting the dust. Maybe the Segway scooter will do the same thing.

I am hoping, from the perspective of someone who has been reduced to near-immobility by some of the worst traffic in the world (I should think traffic has replaced TB as this country's No. 1 killer, in more ways than one) that it does. Nowhere does the inventor Dean Kamen's remark—that it doesn't make sense to use 1,800 kg of metal to haul 200 pounds of ass from one place to another—apply more dramatically than to this country. The drama comes from the fact that while sleek Mercedes-Benzes and BMWs storm angrily down crowded roads hauling 200 or 400 pounds of asses from one place to another, creaky and (black) smoke-spewing buses rumble down crowded roads hauling 20,000 pounds of asses from one place to another. It adds a cruel joke to an insane situation.

One thing though should affect the ease or difficulty with which the Segway scooter will gain acceptance in these parts. Which is political will.

There is an invention that is just as good as the Segway scooter, one that was made centuries ago, and one that is being used widely in places such as China. That is the bicycle, as efficient a device for moving people through short distances as you can get. The only difference being that the bicycle is powered by human energy rather than by batteries. Which has the benefit of making it healthier, if not the best means of locomotion for the sick and elderly.

Yet the tireless efforts of bikers in this country to at least get bicycle lanes in major thoroughfares, if not convert most of Metro Manila's residents to the wisdom of biking to work, have fallen on deaf ears. Bicycling in this country does not evoke images of couples chattering gaily side by side, it evokes images of bicycle riders bleeding on the wayside, as offending vehicles speed away. Next to smoking, bicycling is most hazardous to health in Metro Manila.

No other people seem more resolutely attached to a car culture than we. The reason for this clearly goes beyond convenience to status. This country is riven into rich and poor, privilege and deprivation, and nothing emphasizes that divide, and distinction, more than the car. Probably more than a house, it's the car that reeks of strenuous statements about one's status in life.

How deeply a car culture has pervaded us, with all its symbolic and mythic resonance, we see in the fact that we do not have a culture of walking in Metro Manila. Most Western countries still have that, though they are bastions of cars. I could not believe it a couple of years ago when people kept complaining about the flights of stairs and distances you had to walk to and from the MRT stations. Anyone who has been to the major cities in Europe or in New York will know how far you have to walk to and from the subway or metro stations, if not how steep a flight of stairs you have to climb there. You cannot count on jeepneys and tricycles for that.

Still, who knows? Here at least is where colonial mentality may have some good use. The Segway scooter is made in the United States, a magical a phrase in these parts, sending off all sorts of symbolic and mythical resonance too. If that should do the trick, then I for one will thank God heartily for it.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiors@vasia.com

A good recipe for Afghan democracy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stefan Smith

BONN—In cooking up an Afghan power-sharing deal, UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi did not have an enviable task. His recipe needed to blend a complex patchwork of different ethnic groups, a dominant military force holding all the cards, an array of foreign powers eager to see their favorites come out on top and 23 years of bad blood.

"This agreement may not be perfect as it was devised rapidly to respond to an emergency," a visibly exhausted Brahimi said after the four rival Afghan groups signed an accord after nine-days of negotiations. "Ultimately, however, this agreement will be judged on what it achieves."

Brahimi may be cautious, but his formulation of an interim government shows why his skills in diplomacy, political; cultural and military science are considered unparalleled when compared to past envoys dispatched to Afghanistan. And his blueprint shows that no detail has been left out.

Taking the leadership of a six-month interim authority is Hamid Karzai, a member of the majority ethnic Pashtun and a figure who is currently battling the Taliban around their last stronghold of Kandahar. Karzai, 44, is respected for his battles against occupying Soviet forces during the 1980s, although he kept out of much of the factional infighting of the 1990s, when he briefly served as a deputy foreign minister. The tribal leader did at one point back the Taliban, but only in their early days when they were a widely popular entity owing to their campaign of clearing southern Afghanistan of bandits.

Afghanistan's Pashtuns consider themselves as the traditional rulers of the country, and having a Pashtun leader was seen as crucial for winning the support of the south, which is now facing a power vacuum after the Taliban's collapse.

Furthermore, Brahimi has dug former King Mohammed Zahir Shah out of exile to take on a symbolic role as presiding over a Loya Jirga, the traditional grand assembly of elders, thereby presenting another Pashtun figure.

With the stage set for an emergence of a Pashtun force from the ashes of the Taliban, the deal could allay the fears of neighboring Pakistan, which has seen its Afghan policy explode in its face.

But the composition of the cabinet reflects political realities: three ethnic Tajiks from the main faction in the Northern Alliance hold three of the most important ministries—interior, defense and foreign affairs. Even here, however, the composition has been thought out: Yunus Qanooni, Gen. Mohammad Qasim Fahim and Abdullah Abdullah are an ethnic Tajik trio seen as the young generation of the powerful Northern Alliance.

More politicians than warlords and with the Alliance's old-guard, notably president Burhanuddin Rabbani, out of the picture, the three have been set on a course to formalizing their ambitions into a potentially formidable political grouping.

Their appointments will also provide their key foreign backers, notably Russia and Iran, some comfort that their favorites are being put in prominent positions.

Also at the top of the cabinet is Haji Muhammad Mohaqqeq, a tough Hazara Shiite Muslim warlord who has in the past had close links with Iran. Analysts described bringing him into the accord as a crucial ingredient.

But absent is ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam. He is represented by his nominee who will serve as one of Karzai's five deputies.

Also in the cabinet are two women with strong credentials, meaning that they can hardly be considered as token appointments, sending a signal that a gruesome chapter for Afghanistan's women could be drawing to a close.

Of the 30 posts in the cabinet, 18 are from the Northern Alliance, 11 are from the loyalists to the ex-king, and one is from the moderate Pakistan-backed Peshawar group. But no camp holds the majority vote.

Eleven are ethnic Pashtun, eight are ethnic Tajiks, five are ethnic Hazaras and three are ethnic Uzbeks. The remaining three come from smaller ethnic groups.

A top aide to Brahimi spelled out the logic behind the deal. "It's not perfect. But the key thing here is that we've got the groups into a structure," the UN official, who asked not to be named, told AFP. "That was the key thing: bringing the men with guns on side, and backing that up with commitment from the international community. If this does not succeed, I don't know what will."

The accord sets out a two-year road map to democracy, and although it may be considered ambitious, tangible hopes for peace at last are being expressed.

"All previous accords were signed while Afghanistan was at war," explained the Alliance's Qanooni. "But this is very different: firstly, the war is coming to an end, and the international community is finally committed." ***AFP***

Strange timing

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT'S strange about Sen. Sergio Osmeña's story—about how unnamed officials had borrowed his small plane allegedly to ferry ransom payment for the Abu Sayyaf—are not its details but its timing.

Why now? Why only now, months after the first allegations of ransom money changing hands first surfaced? We could very well understand if he didn't want to speak out while the Abu Sayyaf still held hostages (though they're still holding three now). But why didn't he say anything when Fr. Cirilo Nacorda revealed to the media eyewitness accounts of an Army general taking a briefcase filled with cash to the Abu Sayyaf holed up in Lamitan? Father Nacorda and some of his parishioners even braved threats to their lives to come out in the open and tell senators and congresspersons what they saw during the botched siege. All this time, the senator, if his story is true, knew some telling details, but chose to keep quiet. Why?

The Macapagal administration is trying to turn the tables on Osmeña by threatening him with legal action, since he would be an accessory to violating government policy if he did indeed allow his plane to be used to carry ransom money. But even without the possibility of getting back at this "renegade" senator, the administration should take his allegations seriously and allow an independent investigative body to get to the bottom of the oft-violated, it seems, no-ransom policy.

Still, even if he were telling the truth, Osmeña has surely disappointed many of those who reelected him last May, if only because of his performance at the impeachment hearings. That he should, barely a month after taking his oath, join in battle with the likes of Lacson, Oreta, Ople, Angara and Estrada, was already a letdown. But that he should keep secret information vital to public safety and national security because he was waiting for the maximum political effect before revealing it smacks so much of *trapo* politics, one wonders how we could ever have been fooled that he was different from the rest.

* * *

HERE'S a request to the media, especially opinion columnists, to please stop equating Linda Olaguer Montayre and the People's Consultative Assembly with the entire community known as "civil society."

In the first place, "civil society" cannot be equivalent to a single individual or organization. The term refers to the community of organized citizens' groups that choose to engage with government. The concept used to be applied solely to non-government organizations or NGOs, but this failed to include groups of another nature, such as civic organizations, community-based groups, people's or grass-roots organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, academe and even church-based institutions and organizations.

It was a broad coalition of such groups which participated in the anti-Erap protests and helped organize and manage the People Power II protest that led to the resignation of President Erap. While active in this movement to oust a corrupt president, Montayre and the PCA were certainly not its leaders or main instigators.

Montayre fell under the media spotlight when she became one of the organizers of the "Silent Protest" movement, best known for its enigmatic exclamation point stickers. If other anti-Erap groups and NGOs maintained a puzzling distance and chose to keep silent on the Silent Protest, it was because, among other things, Montayre and the PCA didn't exactly enjoy a sterling reputation within the community.

The protest also seemed to be flimsily organized and hastily conceived, and sure enough it fizzled out soon after. Still, the exclamation point stickers were the first sign of crumbling public support for the Erap administration, and may be said to have sparked the protests that followed.

* * *

I REALLY don't know why Montayre has chosen to launch a series of exposés and veiled threats against the Macapagal administration. But from what I've heard of her checkered past, it can't be solely a matter of altruism and civic-mindedness.

Montayre's accusations, no matter the source, should be looked into. No government is perfect, and the human beings in government are as (if not more) vulnerable to temptation and corruption as those out of it. More important, they took oaths to serve the public interest and follow the law.

But please, Montayre's rages shouldn't be construed as "civil society's" general disaffection with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. True, many NGOs and groups at Edsa are now deeply disappointed and disillusioned by what's happened since Ms Macapagal took office. But to say the entire civil society is up in arms? Not true, I'm afraid. At least, not yet.

Like any citizen, Montayre and the organization she represents have the right to speak out, especially if they have knowledge of irregularities in government. And it is in this context that her "exposés" should be viewed. But speak for all of "civic society" she does not.

* * *

YOU can help abused and abandoned children this Christmas by buying tickets to "Children, Peace and Hope," a Christmas concert dedicated to children by the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. The concert unfolds at 7 p.m. this Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Meralco Theater.

"Maestro" Ryan Cayabyab conducts a 40-piece orchestra to accompany an all-star cast that includes Boy Abunda, Carlo Agassi, Ryan Agoncillo, Michelle Ayalde, Bataoke, Dianne dela Fuente, Pops Fernandez, Mari Kaimo, Jolina Magdangal, Ayen Laurel, Franco Laurel, Martin Nievera, Vina Morales, Roselle Nava, Diether Ocampo, Bernard Palanca, Amy Perez, JM Rodriguez, Jericho Rosales, RJ Rosales, Nikki Valdes, Regine Velasquez, and many, many more. A special dinner will follow the concert at the Meralco lobby.

Proceeds will go to the benefit of Bantay Bata 163 and all its projects. Best known for its rescue and rehabilitation work for abused children, Bantay Bata 163 is planning to set up a Children's Village which will become a home for over a hundred rescued children.

Tickets at P1,000, P2,000 and P3,000 are inclusive of dinner. For inquiries, call Kate, Cynthia or Michael at 411-0856; 415-6625/26.

A question of viewpoint

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EACH time I read about the "Liberation" of Manila in 1945, I wince because I remember the long-drawn campaign of Carmen Guerrero Nakpil to set history straight by calling it the "Battle for Manila." One cannot imagine how one simple word can change the whole way in which we see and understand the world.

When Filipino historians started writing Philippine history from a Filipino viewpoint, it led to some curious controversies. One example was Gregorio Zaide declaring in his textbooks that Magellan did not "discover" the Philippines. Zaide was clearly going against history but he argued, how could Magellan discover the islands when these were already inhabited? Can't we set history right by stating that Magellan "re-discovered" the Philippines and thus give Lapulapu and his men their rightful place in history?

Another nationalist historian, Teodoro Agoncillo, disagreed. To rediscover something means it got lost and was found again. While Agoncillo also worked for a rewriting of history, he could not imagine how the archipelago could hide under the sea and reappear at the right time for Magellan to rediscover it!

Zaide and Agoncillo are long dead, but the question of viewpoint remains to haunt a new generation of historians. While I cannot—and will not—ignore Magellan in the history I keep threatening to write, I will not be as troubled as Zaide. Of course, I will avoid saying that Magellan discovered the Philippines. However, I will not be so rabidly nationalistic as to say that Magellan rediscovered the Philippines. Perhaps I will go direct to the point and simply state that Magellan *arrived* in the Philippines in 1521. None of the facts and characters have changed, but one word sets the tone for a reinterpretation of history from a Filipino viewpoint.

As a historian struggling with our past, I have started to rethink our love-hate relationship with the United States that began with her taking Philippine independence from Emilio Aguinaldo's grasp in 1898. Having learned history from the work of Teodoro Agoncillo and Renato Constantino, my views on America and Americans have always bordered on the negative. But going beyond the Filipino-American War and McKinley's "Benevelont Assimilation" policy makes me pause to rethink the American legacy in the Philippines. Why do my parents and the generation before that have a soft spot for America and Americans? Is it because of the "Liberation" of Manila in 1945? Or is it because at some point in their personal histories there was an American teacher who taught English to someone in their family? While 2001 for me meant the centennial of Aguinaldo's capture in Palanan and (depending on which source you are reading) the end or continuance of the Filipino-American War, for others it marked the arrival of the US Army transport Thomas that carried the schoolteachers who later became known in Filipino history and memory as the Thomasites.

What has given me pause for reflection this past week is a recently published book, "Bearers of Benevolence: The Thomasites and Public Education in the Philippines," edited by Mary Racelis and Judy Celine Ick. At first I thought it would just be another revised and expanded edition of "Tales of the American Teachers in the Philippines," edited by Geronima Pecson and Mary Racelis, which has been long out of print since it was first published in the last century, the year of our lord 1959. I was wrong, the 2001 version contains more readings from a variety of sources and viewpoints.

To me as a historian, it is good that the book contains "primary sources" and points to other sources for further research. What makes it particularly valuable for a general reader is that these primary sources do not give us a processed view of the past; rather we read and hear the voices of these pioneer teachers and their Filipino pupils. As a historian continually in search of the Filipino voice hidden from history, I often read a foreigner's account of life in the Philippines and vainly try to turn it around to recreate the past from a Filipino point of view. This compilation includes authentic Filipino voices talking about industrial work, volleyball and even one recounting the organization of the San Mateo baseball team in 1909.

Of course, the texts by the teachers was a treat though I had read them before in the course of my research so that their names have become familiar to me: Mary Fee, Josephine and Austin Craig, William C. Freer, David Barrows, etc. It was on the detail that I got hooked. For example, in the first 20 months after the arrival of the Thomas, Gilbert S. Perez listed the names of 27 teachers who died: six of Asiatic cholera, one of appendicitis, one from drowning, four of smallpox, etc. Those who died violent deaths were intriguing: one suicide (gunshot wound), four killed by *ladrones* and two murdered by *ladrones*. (What was the difference between killed and murdered?) Were these *ladrones* really bandits or were the teachers innocent or stupid bystanders caught in the crossfire of the Filipino resistance to colonial rule?

I looked at vintage pictures, exam questions, lists of required books and saw the challenge of teaching in the context of a new culture and a guerrilla war. The Thomasites make us rethink the way public education has made us, for better or worse, the way we are.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Children speak about globalization

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

VARIOUS debates have been conducted on the impact of globalization on the economy and the lives of people. Many believe that while opening the Philippine economy to free trade and enabling it to haul in more investors are advantageous, there are glaring effects of globalization which should not be cast aside.

At the World Economic Forum in 1996, Klaus Schwab pointed out that globalization was causing severe economic and social instability. Technology was eliminating more jobs than it was creating and global competition was leading to winner-take-all situations. Higher profits no longer meant greater job security and better wages.

The UNDP report (1997) maintains that while there will be losers and winners in globalization, the losses will be concentrated among countries which can least afford to lose. In other words, globalization has far-reaching implications on people's lives and livelihood. It strikes at the very heart of poor families, and where there are families, there are children.

The IBON Data Bank Foundation in cooperation with SCF-UK and ARCS conducted a study on globalization and its effects on children. The Salinlahi Foundation Inc. was commissioned to conduct a series of workshops for this purpose. The workshops focused on the issues and concerns of children regarding the events happening in the country and the impact of these events on their lives and families.

It was evident from the results of the workshops that the children were aware of the country's current situation and they had a common desire for social change. Child participants confirmed that they felt the burden of poverty. Child vendors at the CCP Complex lamented that they were forced to work to help support their families. Their parents often had no work due to the mass layoffs in the country today.

Child participants from Marikina pointed out that small companies had to close due to the entry of bigger corporations. This resulted in many workers losing their jobs and livelihood.

In Davao, when the Dizon family turned their farms into golf courses, many farmworkers were laid off. The children said they had no choice but to work to help bring food to the family table. Many had to stop going to school because there was no money for education.

The burden of poverty has not only affected family incomes, but also family relationships. The children recounted how their parents often fought over money. This trouble in the home sometimes escalated to child abuse. Parents vented their frustrations on their children.

The children were also aware of the increase in the prices of commodities while wages remained low. The low salary given to employees and the large deductions for taxes greatly reduced family incomes. This, they said, has resulted in their parents not being able to earn enough to pay for their education. With the high cost of tuition vis-à-vis the meager salaries of their parents, the children were forced to drop out of school and find work instead.

The influx of big companies has also resulted in the exploitation and abuse of workers. The children said that globalization led to land-grabbing by big companies and the bankruptcy of small companies. Contractualization also became rampant. Many people were employed but paid low wages and were not given enough benefits.

Due to hard times, the children said, many of the youth resorted to illegal activities (e.g. petty theft, prostitution) to earn money to sustain their personal needs and provide for their families. The children also lamented the corruption in government and the fact that government provided bigger budgets to debt repayment rather than the delivery of basic services.

While the Philippine government has committed itself to promoting the best interest of children in its National Strategic Framework for Plan Development of Children (2000-2005) and has drafted a Children First Policy in budget priorities and funds allocation, it has not been true to its promise.

The Children First Policy states that children grow and develop best within a functional and caring family and that families must be given the proper support to nurture their children. This evidently is not happening in our country today. Families are becoming poorer and poorer due to the economic crisis and this impacts on how families rear their children. If families are pushed into further marginalization, what will then happen to the children?

In IBON's analysis of the prospects of the children's sector in relation to the globalization policy and the Macapagal administration, it sees no improvement in the situation of children unless the government abandons its globalization-based policies. The government needs to institute structural reforms in the economy to neutralize the impact of globalization on our country. Unless this is done, families will be pushed into further marginalization and the children's future will remain hopeless.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Case vs UP regent

FORMER UNIVERSITY of the Philippines student regent Hannah Eunice Serana was charged with malversation of public funds before the Office of the Ombudsman on Feb. 6, 2001. Serana, 22, a senior political science student of the UP College Cebu, allegedly pocketed the P15-million budget allocated by the Presidential Management Staff for the renovation of the Vinzons Hall Annex on the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

The incumbent student regent, Kristine Claire Bugayong, and Christine Jill de Guzman, secretary general of the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP or Kasama sa UP, the alliance of student councils in the whole UP System, filed the complaint. They asked the Ombudsman to issue a hold departure order against Serana as well as a subpoena duces tecum for the bank records of Serana and members of the Office of the Student Regent Foundation Inc. who are all believed to be relatives of Serana. Her brother Jose Ian, an incorporator of the foundation, allegedly withdrew the money from LandBank on Oct. 25, 2000, a day after the PMS released the check.

The foundation, later renamed the Student Welfare and Programs Foundation Inc., was allegedly used by Serana to negotiate for the renovation of the hall and facilitate the release of the P15 million. Serana had personally proposed to former President Joseph Estrada to turn the hall into the "President Joseph Ejercito Estrada Student Hall." She allegedly first wrote a letter to regent Raul de Guzman, Estrada's brother-in-law, to have an audience with the President. The hall would supposedly house the offices of both the student and faculty regents, a museum, a mini-theater, a conference hall, a study lounge and a student café. University officials and student council officers were unaware of this proposal.

The irregularity was exposed only after the PMS inquired in January 2001 about the status of the renovation.

Case status: A resolution is yet to be released by the Ombudsman. A preliminary investigation of the allegations is still being conducted. In addition to this, the UP System's legal office learned that Serana is applying for a passport. It is blocking approval of the application. ***Armin Adina, PDI Research Department***

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LETTERS

Doctors who care about poor patients

I HASTENED to my computer as soon as I finished Rina Jimenez-David's column, "Common and 'routine.'" I did not want my analysis to slip off my mind. My cerebrum started working when I noted David's description of the poor patients' plight in a government hospital as "common." She was commenting on an unidentified woman doctor's account of a week spent in rotation in the delivery room of a government hospital that came out in the Letters section.

Let us just call the letter writer Dr. Care (at least she cared enough for her poor patients by exposing how they were treated by those cruel doctors and nurses in the delivery room). Dr. Care first told about how she sutured up a patient who sustained two first-degree lacerations. She went on to explain how she did it with so many stitches and under very little light.

Beside her was a colleague who was in the same predicament but with a more difficult case, multiple lacerations. She had been suturing for almost an hour.

And here's the catch: they were suturing without any anesthesia!

Do you know how painful it is to suture without anesthesia? And to think they were suturing in an area that is so sensitive that the mere prick of a syringe's needle containing anesthesia would get you off your seat. And to think her colleague was doing it for an hour. That's unforgivable.

Dr. Care went on to describe the sorry state of the delivery room. The smell. The asepsis. The chaos.

I am pretty sure the government hospital she was describing has a twin or a replica in other government hospitals. Or maybe, almost all government hospitals have the same problem. I am very sure that it is not only the delivery room that is noteworthy. Dr. Care ought to make a tour of the other rooms and inform us about her impressions as well.

So what's my point? I am so glad to hear a colleague of mine speak up and tell the entire nation about the plight of our indigent patients. But this is not enough, Dr. Care. After your letter was published, I am sure people were moved by it, and some people would, like the columnist, find it "common," familiar or universal. But after another day, people would simply forget about it. Now, tell me, did you create a wave? Did you rock the boat? Did it relieve the pain you induced when you sutured your patient without using anesthesia?

I am a 29-year-old doctor who graduated from the University of Santo Tomas and who just finished my post-graduate internship at the Corazon L. Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Negros. I, together with so many new medical graduates who chose to serve in government hospitals that cater to the poorest of the poor, would have the same experiences, if not worse (since you just rotated for a week). It is no laughing matter at our young age to see so many poor patients dying and suffering all because they cannot afford anything better. Our heart bleeds each time we go to work and are with these patients. We pray every day that our tears will never run dry. And it is because of these tears that we strive to be excellent in our field. It is also because of these tears that we search for solutions to these problems. We are the only ones who know what is going on inside a government hospital and only we who know exactly how to solve them. But once our tears dry up, or once we find the sufferings of our poor patients "common," no one will even remember that the problem existed.

Dr. Care, please do not stop with the letter you wrote. Do not be intimidated by the senior doctors shouting at the patients. If you witness it again, approach the patient and apologize for your senior residents. Let your residents feel that what they did was wrong. I am sure that they will avoid doing the same thing in front of you again. At least, you will have made a stand and that should serve as a wake-up call for others to follow.

Never allow yourself to suture a patient without anesthesia. That's a no-no unless the patient agrees to it. Being out of stock is never an excuse. Always ask the nurses before you start if they have it. If not, prescribe it.

And always ask the patient to buy an extra vial. It will come in handy when you have a patient who cannot afford to buy one.

Be creative. Be resourceful. But never make an excuse that it is all right to do it because "anyway they will not complain."

My point is, be proactive. You know exactly what the problem is. Try to look for solutions. Make a difference. If you will just complete your rotation in that hospital and move on to your next, then what good is your concern?

Dr. Care may epitomize the many health care workers in this country who know exactly what the problems are, but have not maximized their strengths to do something for a change. The rude doctors probably epitomize the many other doctors who know exactly what the problems are, but have refused to help and simply take advantage of the poor for their training.

If you want to make a difference, get really involved! Join our crusade to help our poor patients. Let's bring back the dignity and respect to our patients.—**ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ JR., M.D., director, Lingkod-e.r. Foundation, Bulig Kabuhi (Bulig Ka!) Foundation**

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Charges vs prisons chief denied

THIS is in response to the columns of Ramon Tulfo dated last Oct. 20 and 27 and Dec. 1 and 4 which unfairly attacked the director of the Bureau of Corrections, Col. Ricardo B. Macala (ret.), for alleged irregularities.

Macala is capable of defending himself against any concocted charges made by unnamed and cowardly sources, but most if not all the alleged irregularities are supposed to be happening in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) which is under the operational control of the prison superintendent.

For the information of Tulfo and his readers, the corrections director exercises policy level functions and does not encroach on operations. Operational matters are under the jurisdiction of the superintendent. The NBP is just one of the seven prisons and penal farms under the Bureau of Corrections.

Tulfo's latest allegation is that the cause of the fire that gutted Building II at the NBP Maximum Security Compound was not by faulty electrical wiring but Molotov bombs thrown by inmates during a prison riot. He went on to claim that the inmates had access to kerosene from the tankers parked inside the prison compound.

Nothing can be farther from the truth. There was no riot and there has never been a kerosene truck inside the NBP compound. The inter-agency arson probe committee composed of representatives from the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police has come out with the finding that it was indeed faulty electrical wiring that caused the fire.

Another claim of Tulfo is that inmate Jose Obosa goes in and out of the NBP compound to rob or kill people. This again is not true. In his columns last October, Tulfo claimed that Obosa was the convicted murderer of former Interior Secretary Jaime Ferrer. Yet, in a 1994 column, Tulfo reported that Sergio Romero, chief of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, revealed to him that it was not Obosa who killed Ferrer in 1987 but the ABB.

Tulfo laments that nobody from the DOJ or Congress has taken action on his exposé. Maybe they find no merit in his or his unnamed informants' allegations.

Tulfo's claim that the two relatives of Macala are bringing drugs into the compound simply does not make sense. Less than 10 percent of the prison population can afford to buy drugs, so that makes the prison compound a very poor market for the drug trade. It is a community where one will find the poorest of the poor.

This is not to say that drugs do not find their way into the NBP. But we are doing something about it. In order to minimize, if not totally eliminate, the presence of drugs in the prison compound, Macala has ordered the installation of electronic monitoring devices and acquired four drug sniffing dogs from the PNP (courtesy of Director General Leandro Mendoza).

In closing, we wish to extend an invitation to Tulfo to visit us at the NBP so that the director and I can brief him on our programs for the NBP.—**SUPT. VEN JO TESORO, penal superintendent IV, Bureau of Corrections, Muntinlupa City**

Water wasted for three years

I WOULD like to seek your help regarding the busted pipe on Limay Street corner Corregidor Street. It has been leaking water for almost three years now.

I know that this has been reported by our barangay council to the water authority concerned several times already. One of my neighbor did the same last week. All to no avail.—**JOSEPH YU, 1139 Corregidor corner Limay Streets, Manuguit, Tondo, Manila**

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Malaysia in quandary over Misuari arrest

(From page A1)

they want to deport Misuari, who was arrested in Malaysian waters on Nov. 24, just days after his group attacked a military base on Jolo Island.

The attack set off a week of fighting with Philippine troops that killed more than 100 people.

The Philippine government has charged Misuari with rebellion, but says it is more convenient for him to be held in Malaysia than repatriated immediately.

Malaysian officials say they are investigating Misuari, but only for activities in Malaysia.

Misuari is being held as an illegal immigrant, which often results in deportation without a charge in Malaysia.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted in news media Thursday as saying that Misuari should be deported as soon as possible, but that he would remain in Malaysia until the Philippines was ready to take him back.

A report in the local Sun newspaper yesterday quoted a highly placed source as saying that Misuari would be deported by the end of the week.

"I have no way of confirming these reports, but as a 'highly placed source' myself, I would say that the Philippines is still not ready," said Jose Brillantes, Philippine ambassador to Malaysia.

At his news conference, Mahathir blamed Misuari for Malaysia's problem, not the Philippine government.

"It is Misuari who puts Malaysia in a spot, why can't he run away somewhere else," Mahathir said. "It sours up our relations with our neighbors."

Misuari was arrested off Malaysia's eastern Sabah state, on Borneo Island just a few hours' boat ride from southern Philippines.

The base attack was apparently aimed at disrupting elections to select Misuari's replacement as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). A successor was proclaimed on Monday.

As leader of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Misuari signed a peace accord in 1996 with the Philippine government which ended the group's demand for independence in favor of limited autonomy, and helped Misuari become governor.

The Philippines says Misuari met with members of the Abu Sayyaf group before last month's attack, and that fighters from that group took part.

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, which is blamed for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Wednesday that she would ask the United States to include Misuari in a list of terrorists worldwide because of his links to the Abu Sayyaf.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, meanwhile, has created a three-man panel to ascertain whether Nur Misuari could be perpetually barred from holding any government position after he declared war against the Philippine government. ***Reports from AP, AFP and Michael Lim Ubac***

Military reshuffle under way

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, CARLITO PABLO AND JOSELLE D.R. BADILLA

A RESHUFFLE of military officials is being planned in the wake of the recent retirement of Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, military sources said yesterday.

According to the sources, Major Generals Narciso Abaya (Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971) and Ernesto Carolina (PMA '70) are to be named AFP deputy chief of staff and Southern Luzon Command chief, respectively.

Abaya, who is Solcom chief, will replace Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, who took over Calimlim's post. Carolina, head of the 7th Infantry Division, will in turn take over Camiling's post and will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's senior military assistant.

Braganza is a direct commissioned officer who entered the service in 1971.

Calimlim (PMA '68) stepped down last month upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Malacañang is also changing its Praetorian Guards.

Sources said the post of senior military assistant would go to Brig. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, now chief of the Presidential Security Group.

They said Rabonza (PMA '70) would be replaced by Col. Hermogenes Esperon (PMA '72), the current commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade based in Basilan.

Esperon is no stranger to the PSG, having served as deputy and chief of staff of the elite unit during President Fidel Ramos' term.

"The President has approved this movement," said a source in Malacañang. "The papers are now being processed at Camp Aguinaldo."

No information

Esperon, however, said he had yet to be informed of his new assignment.

"I just came from operations, I don't know about that news. *Wala pang sinasabi sa akin*," Esperon told the INQUIRER in Davao City by phone.

He said that while he was very busy directing the fight against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, a reassignment would be most welcome.

"But I am not saying I'm ready to leave (Basilan)," he quickly added. "I'm happy because (the strength of) the Abu Sayyaf has been degraded. I can stay for as long as it takes."

Still, Esperon said that any assignment was "an honor" and that he would be thankful for the supposed new one.

After all, "we have a very capable deputy that can take over (my position) here," he said, referring to Col. Alexander Aleo.

But another highly placed source said Esperon's supposed transfer was just a rumor.

"We really don't know," said the source. "We don't even know if they are planning any *rigodon* in Malacañang. (Braganza and Rabonza) are retiring in 2005. These guys are very promising. You know how it works in the AFP—those people who are very visible, they are the ones who are subject to criticisms."

Gov't defers filing of cases vs MNLF rebs

BY JULIE S. ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The government has decided to postpone the filing of rebellion charges against Nur Misuari, former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor, in connection with the Nov. 27 siege of the Cabatangan Complex here.

City Prosecutor Manuel Tatel said Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño approved the delay in the filing of the charges.

"I was even told to fax him the documents for evaluation," Tatel said.

He said the postponement would allow prosecutors to review the documents related to the charges.

"The case for rebellion was about to be filed this morning. However, it was delayed because of the plan of the lawyer of the nine arrested suspected loyalists of Misuari to give them a 15-day waiver," he said.

The nine Misuari loyalists were being charged as accessories.

The delay in the filing of charges came as Dr. Parouk Hussin, newly installed ARMM governor, confirmed that negotiations with the Misuari faction had started.

The negotiations were aimed at convincing supporters of Misuari to join the Council of 15 in "its efforts to develop the Bangsamoro."

It was the Council of 15 that ousted Misuari as chair of the MNLF.

"We are hopeful for their return to the fold of the law and we will insist the return of their firearms which are the legitimate property of the ARMM," Hussin said.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat said she could not understand why the government put off the filing of charges against Misuari.

"I felt bad, I really, really felt bad about this development," Lobregat said.

The delay in the filing of the charges also came as the Committee of the Eight, of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), started its meeting in Manila yesterday.

The meeting centered on issues involving Misuari.

It was not immediately known whether Misuari, who is being kept in a Malaysian jail, was represented in the meeting held at the Indonesian Embassy.

Earlier, Dr. Abdelouabed Belkeziz, OIC secretary general, had urged Indonesia, chair of the committee, to include Misuari and a representative from the Philippine government in the meeting. ***With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Misuari runs to UN for help

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

NUR Misuari has sought a United Nations permanent observer status for the Moro National Liberation Front-Bangsamoro Republik "to save Mindanao people from the ugly scourge of war and genocide."

In a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Misuari made the "urgent request" through the New York-based lawyer Elly Velez Pamatong.

Misuari told the United Nations that the MNLF was the sole representative of about 20 million Bangsamoro people of Mindanao, who desire to present their "struggle for independence or decolonization directly to the members of the UN and to the world community."

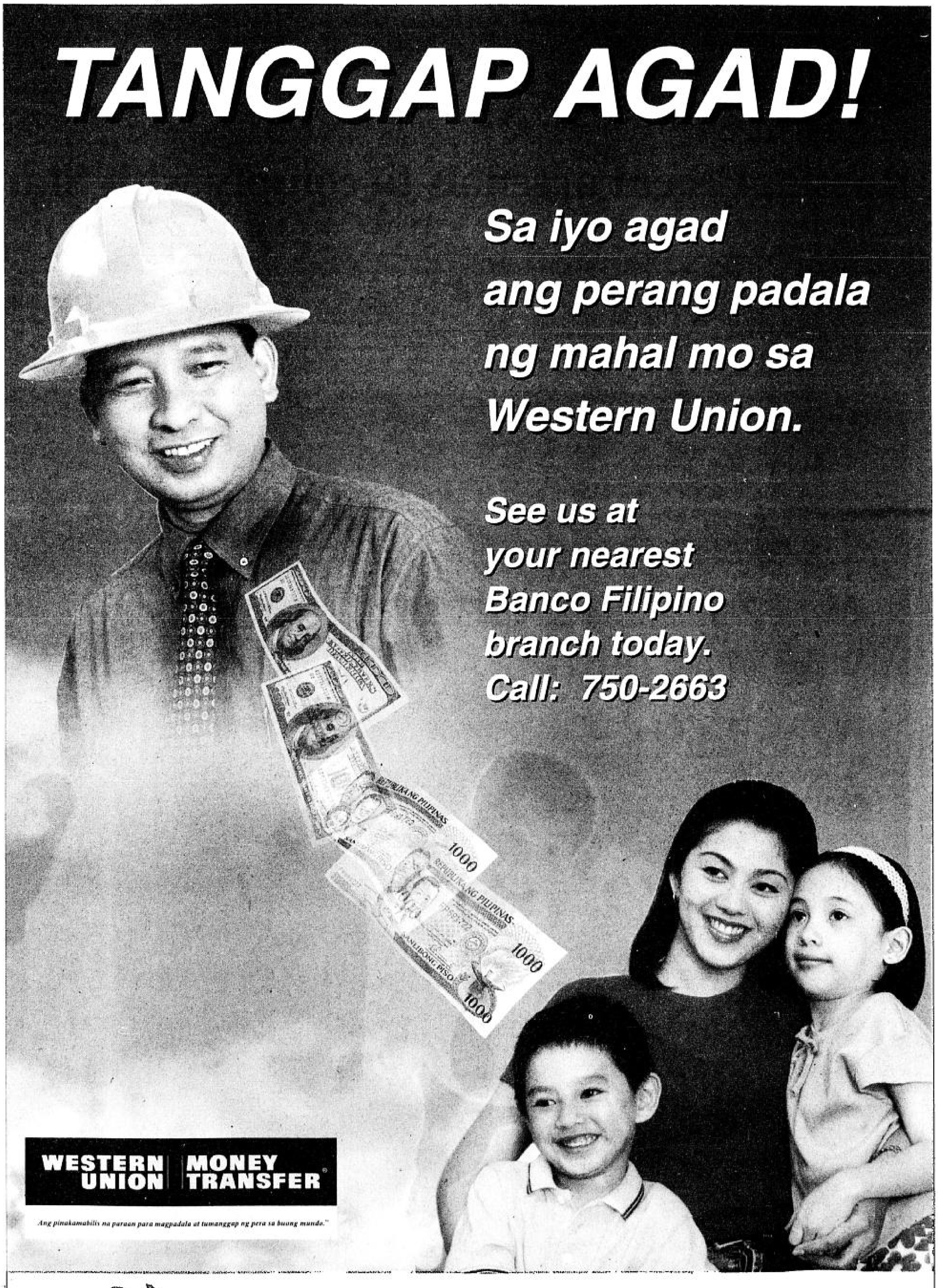
Misuari told Annan that the MNLF had been holding a permanent observer status with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) under his leadership.

Misuari, who was arrested and being held in Malaysia, said the MNLF wanted to obtain a UN permanent observer status following the Philippine government's implementation of "ethnic cleansing" in Mindanao.

The letter to Annan emanated from the MNLF-Bangsamoro Republik headquarters at 97-43 81st St., Ozone Park, New York, and was signed by Pamatong on Misuari's behalf.

The Department of Foreign Affairs was unfazed by Misuari's move, saying the government now recognizes the 15-member Executive Council as the new MNLF leadership.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the holding of the elections in the expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Nov. 26 and the "earnest involvement" of the MNLF in the polls was a "testimony of their commitment and adherence to the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement."



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Hamas founder under house arrest

AN ISRAELI soldier peers out of his tank which took a position on a Palestinian-ruled territory in the West Bank town of Ramallah Dec. 5. REUTERS

GAZA—Palestinian security forces placed the founder of the Islamic movement Hamas under house arrest on Wednesday following pressure on President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to rein in militants.

But a spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the move against Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the group responsible for weekend suicide bombings, was not enough.

"Palestinian police have informed Sheikh Ahmed Yassin that he has been put under house arrest and that he is barred from outside contacts," a Palestinian security official said.

Yassin was the most prominent leader to suffer sanctions from the Palestinian Authority since a round-up of more than 100 militants began late on Saturday after Hamas carried out several suicide bombings inside Israel.

But Israeli officials said the move against its spiritual leader, rather than Hamas' military wing, was not enough.

"That's not stopping the suicide bombers. They've got to stop the ones who are doing the crimes," said Sharon's spokesperson Raanan Gissin after news of the move against Yassin.

The Hamas founder's family said security guards had been stationed outside the ailing, 65-year-old Yassin's home in Gaza City, the main hub of the Gaza Strip. Security forces in jeeps were patrolling the nearby roads.

Hamas, which opposes Israel's existence, took responsibility

for suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa at the weekend that killed 25 people and jeopardized international efforts to end more than 14 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Israel responded by blaming the Palestinian Authority and launching multiple air strikes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yassin's house arrest could ratchet up internal pressure against Arafat as public opinion largely opposes the arrests of Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation.

Hamas officials, who have been in hiding since the sweep began late on Saturday, could not be reached for comment.

Yassin's son, Abdel-Hamid Yassin, said members of the Palestinian police, intelligence and preventive security forces came to his family's home late on Wednesday. *Reuters*

Russia, US cut arsenals to comply with Start-1

MOSCOW—Russia and the United States said on Wednesday they had slashed their strategic weapons stockpile down to the levels required by the Start-1 treaty, signed by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1991.

A Russian Foreign Ministry statement said Russia had cut the number of vehicles to 1,136 and the number of nuclear warheads to 5,518, well below the ceilings of 1,600 and 6,000 established by the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which set Wednesday as the deadline for compliance with the targets.

"The United States and Russia each now maintain fewer than the treaty's mandated limits of 1,600 deployed strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 accountable warheads," US state department spokesperson Philip Reeker added in Washington.

"We're marking an important milestone today in dismantling the legacy of the Cold War. The treaty's final ceilings came into effect today and they have been met," he told a briefing.

The treaty was signed by former President George Bush, father of the current US president, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Russian statement said: "The full and timely fulfillment of the provisions in the Start-1 treaty establishes good conditions for working out an agreement on further radical reductions of strategic offensive weapons."

The United States added in a written statement: "As we cooperate in building this new strategic relationship and as we move beyond the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, we will make further reductions in strategic nuclear forces."

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President George W. Bush announced substantial cuts in nuclear arms stockpiles during Putin's visit to the United States last month, bringing them to the lowest level since the 1950s.

At the summit, Bush announced plans to cut US strategic offensive weapons from 7,000 warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200. Russia has said it is ready to cut the number of its strategic warheads to about 1,500.

However, Russia has complained that Washington has so far failed to make clear whether the United States intends to destroy nuclear warheads or simply remove them from their delivery vehicle and store them. *Reuters*

India nabs man planning terror attacks in Australia

CANBERRA—A man arrested in India has confessed to planning suicide terrorist attacks in Australia similar to the Sept. 11 assaults in the United States, the government said Thursday.

Attorney General Daryl Williams told reporters that a man who had received flight training in Australia was arrested in Bombay last month and had confessed to planning terrorist attacks on Britain, India and Australia.

"The claim is that there was a group training to conduct terrorist action in the United Kingdom, India and Australia. There is a man detained by authorities and he has claimed that the plan was to attack in Australia." Williams said.

Williams said Australian agencies were working with Indian authorities to investigate the claims.

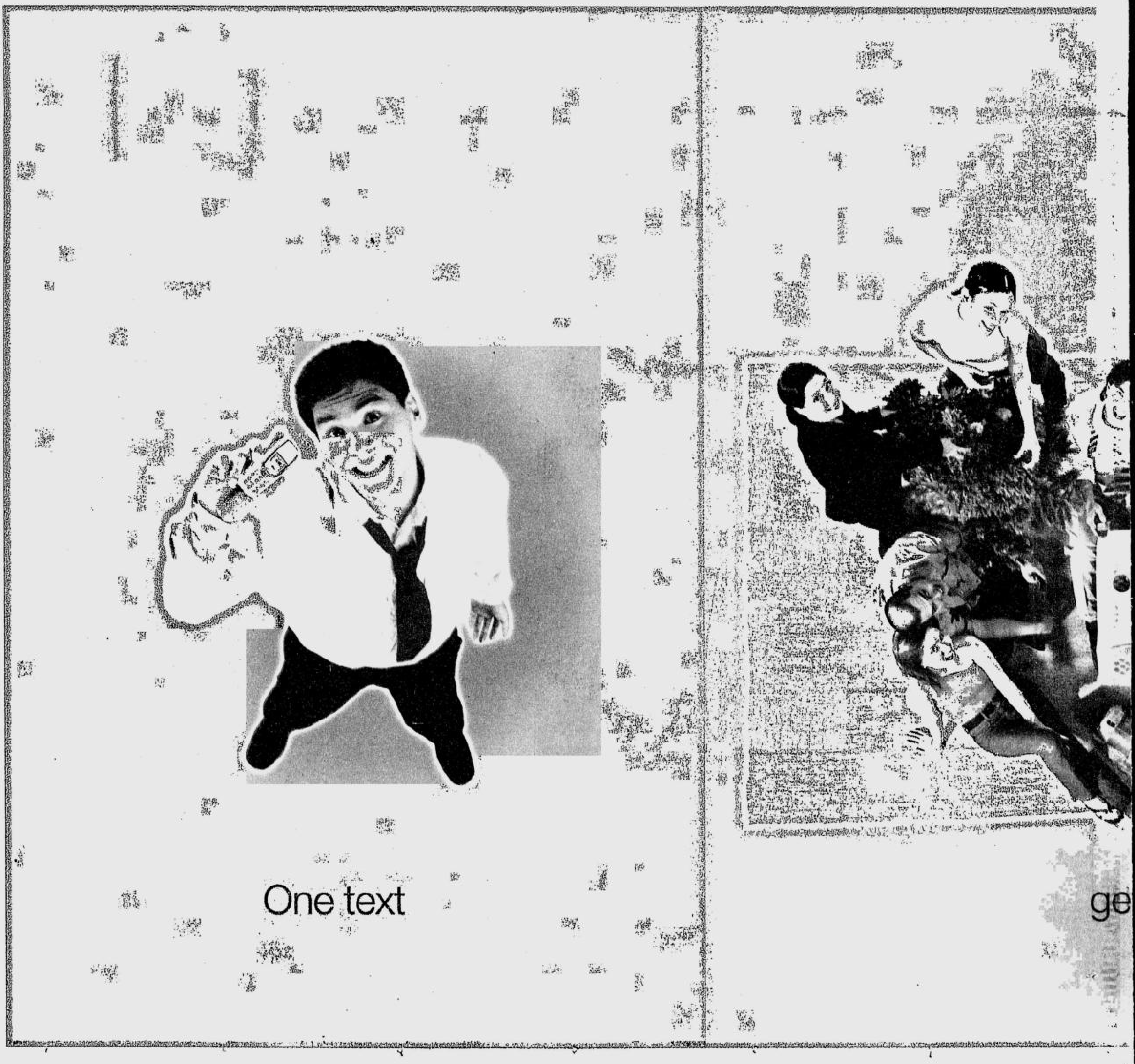
"We have been able to confirm that he did train in Australia as a pilot in 1997 and 1998 but we've also ascertained that he left Australia in December 1998 and has not returned," he said.

Williams refused to reveal details of the man's identity or where he completed his training or his citizenship.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said earlier that the man was arrested on suspicion of being linked with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, the target of the US-led coalition on the ground in Afghanistan which includes British and Australian troops.

Downer said there was no reason to think his claims were a hoax.

"I gather he confessed to planning suicide attacks in Australia or in Britain or one or two other countries, so it does underline the point that we need to take our security very seriously," he said. *AP*



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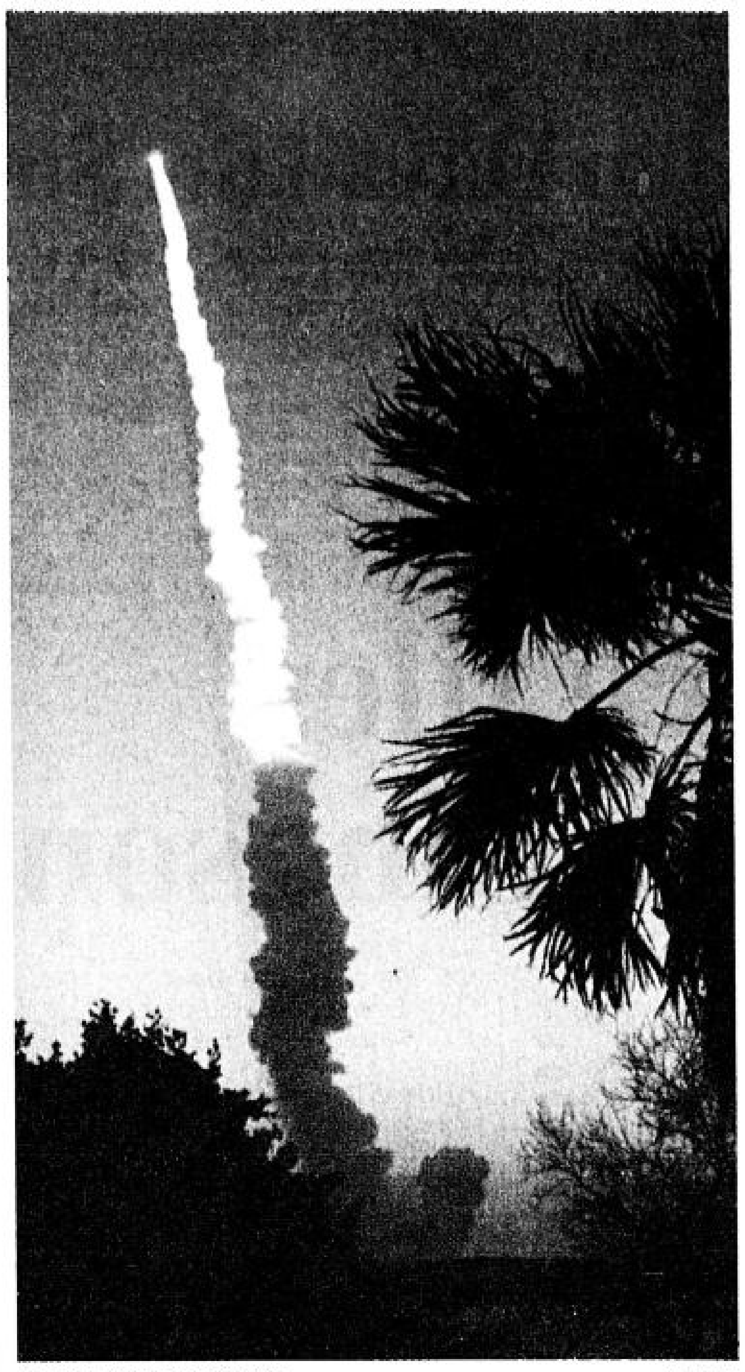

THAR SHE BLOWS REUTERS

The space shuttle Endeavour lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Dec. 5. Endeavour carried a crew of seven into space for a rendezvous with the International Space Station on a crew-exchange mission.

Sotheby's ex-chair found guilty in multimillion scam

NEW YORK—Former Sotheby's chairman A. Alfred Taubman was found guilty on Wednesday of conspiring with the former head of rival Christie's to fix commission fees in a multimillion-dollar scam that shook the art world.

The jury of eight men and four women deliberated for less than two days in the complicated case before convicting Taubman of hatching an international price fixing conspiracy in the 1990s with Anthony Tennant, the former chair of rival auction house Christie's.

TAUBMAN

Flanked by a team of lawyers, dressed in a three-piece gray suit and listening with the help of a wireless hearing aid, the Detroit real estate magnate sat stone still in the US District Court in Manhattan while the unanimous verdict was read.

When Taubman, 76, left the courthouse a short time later, he appeared shaken and declined to make a statement as he was ushered into a black Range Rover.

Taubman, who is still the largest shareholder in Sotheby's, will be sentenced on April 2 next year and faces up to three years in prison as well as heavy fines.

"We are of course very disappointed in the verdict, but we're going to review our options and decide what to do next," said Taubman's lawyer Robert Fiske.

He declined to say whether he planned to appeal.

Tennant, a resident of Britain, could not be extradited for the three-week trial. Both Taubman and Tennant have said they are not guilty of the charges.

The case rocked the rarefied world of art auctions with accusations of deceit, backstabbing and shady dealmaking between the two houses, which together control about 90 percent of the world's live auctions of art, jewelry and furniture.

The prosecution's case hinged on the testimony of two former executives of the venerable auction houses, which have roots dating back to the 18th century.

Diana "Dede" Brooks, the former chief executive of Sotheby's and once considered the most powerful woman in the art industry, testified that Taubman ordered her to collude with former Christie's chief executive Christopher Davidge to set the commissions the houses charged customers to sell their art.

When the scheme started to unravel, she testified, her boss showed her a newspaper picture of herself and said she would "look good in stripes."

Taubman's lawyers countered by arguing that Brooks, who oversaw the sale of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' estate, bullied her boss and never told him about the price-fixing scheme they accused her of arranging with Davidge in the backseat of a limousine at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. *Reuters*

Tommy denies role in murder

JAKARTA—Former President Suharto's son Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra has denied masterminding the murder of a Supreme Court judge, contradicting testimony of other suspects, Indonesian police said on Thursday.

But Jakarta police spokesperson Anton Bahrul Alam said there was still enough evidence to link him to the July slaying of Syafiuddin Kartasasmita, who last year handed Tommy an 18-month jail sentence over his role in a graft case involving state food agency Bulog.

"He indeed did not confess. We do not need his confession . . . ," Alam said by phone. "What is important is the evidence and there are enough witnesses (for a charge)."

In Indonesia, police need to file a dossier with prosecutors who are then responsible for charging defendants and seeking a court hearing. Alam did not elaborate on when police might submit the case file.

Police detained Tommy last week after he had eluded them for a year after he ran from the graft conviction. While that conviction was eventually reversed, Tommy is now suspected of masterminding a series of bomb blasts and keeping illegal arms, in addition to being linked to the murder, according to police.

They also say they are serious about cracking the cases, but many in Indonesia wonder how far the authorities will go in an episode that has already worsened the poor image of the country's justice system, given several reverses of judgment in the graft case and Tommy's ability to stay a fugitive for so long.

The youngest son of former President Suharto has been the only member of the ex-autocrat's family to be brought to court over the graft that critics say blemished the former general's 32 years in power.

Tommy lent his name to a number of lucrative deals during his father's rule. He received special tax breaks to build and sell a national car and held a monopoly on clove trading—the spice used in Indonesia's much-smoked kretek cigarettes. *Reuters*

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Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Mindanao, Northern Palawan including Calamian group and Cuyo Island will experience stormy weather. Western Visayas, rest of Palawan and Southwestern Luzon will experience widespread rains and gusty winds. The rest of Luzon and the rest of Visayas and Northwestern Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Mindanao will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 18°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 27° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Bacolod	Widespread Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Roxas	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/07/01

ROUNDUP

Drug pushers watched

COTABATO CITY—Police are closely watching a group of suspected snatchers and drug pushers who fled Davao City for fear of being killed by members of a vigilante group. Supt. Sangacala Dampac, city police chief, said the suspects moved to Cotabato "to make their living here." They are "wrong," Dampac said, as police are hot on their tracks.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Lantern fest in Pampanga

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Despite the absence of support from the Department of Tourism, Pampanga will push through with the holding of the Sinukwan and giant lantern festivals this month. Officials of the Foundation for Lingap Kapampangan Inc. said the festivals would be held at the newly built SM City Pampanga. Among the activities lined up are a photo exhibit, a food festival featuring Kapampangan cuisine, a float parade and a dance competition.

Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Commitment to indigenous

BONTOC, Mt. Province—President Macapagal-Arroyo reiterated her administration's commitment to uplift the plight of the country's indigenous peoples during her visit here on Nov. 29. Ms Macapagal said during the 19th Episcopal Convention on Indigenous Peoples and residents here that she was determined to make the indigenous peoples program "a centerpiece of a good and caring government." She said she would try her best to fulfill her promise to grant 100 certificates of ancestral domain claims to indigenous peoples within a year. *Daphne Falag-ey, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Unremitted revenues

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Almost P9 million in quarry revenues, or an average of P400,000 monthly, has not been remitted by the Natural Resources and Development Corp. to the Pampanga provincial government since last year, Gov. Manuel Lapid said. Lapid directed the provincial treasurer and the provincial quarry task force to collect extraction tax from desilting and scraping activities. Provincial administrator Benalfre Galang said the NRDC has not been giving to the province, towns and barangays the P80 revenue from every truckload of sand derived under desilting and scraping permits.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DOTC chief's assurance

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has assured Central Luzon residents that he supports the full development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here. Alvarez, however, said the development of the airport into a busy commercial airport is the work of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and not of the DOTC. Alvarez challenged Philippine Airlines to establish its own terminal building, put up the equipment and open commercial flights to Clark so it could help develop the alternative airport.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cagayan criminal falls

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Cagayan Valley's third most wanted criminal was arrested in Quezon City recently, reports from the regional police said. Supt. Jude Santos, chief of the regional police's intelligence and investigation division, said Elmer Alupani has a P100,000 reward for his capture. Alupani of Camalaniugan, Cagayan was charged with murder, homicide, kidnapping, illegal detention, robbery and rape before the courts in Aparri and Tuao towns.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mangyan, Dumagat protest

CALAMBA CITY—Some 100 farmers and tribal people from Southern Tagalog vowed to prolong their protest in front of the Batasang Pambansa if Congress does not respond to their appeal for an investigation of human rights violations in the region. Juvilyn Salazar of the Task Force Tanggol Karapatan said 148 cases of human rights infringements have been committed against the Mangyans of Mindoro and the Dumagats of Quezon and needed to be investigated. The group started their camp-out protest on Monday.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug test for city employees

LUCENA CITY—At least 500 city government employees here have undergone a drug test conducted by City Hall. Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said the surprise drug test was mandated by a city ordinance. Those found taking drugs will be asked to undergo a drug rehabilitation program, he said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Canadian really kidnapped in Davao del Sur

PAGADIAN CITY—The missing Canadian from Davao del Sur, whom authorities first thought to have staged a "kidnap-me" operation to raise money, turned out to be indeed in the hands of a kidnap gang based in Central Mindanao.

The INQUIRER managed to contact the keepers of Pierre Belanger, a resident of Hagonoy town, through a mobile phone number on Wednesday.

Ali Ibrahim and Ali Abubakar, who introduced themselves as leaders of the group that snatched Belanger, 55, on Nov. 3 in Digos City, also in Davao del Sur, said they were demanding P20 million from Belanger's family.

Belanger is married to a Filipina. His brother, Richard, works as comptroller at the Catholic-ran Cor Jesu College in Digos.

Ibrahim confirmed that the ransom demand has been relayed to Belanger's family and that based on their conversation, they were willing to raise the money.

The kidnappers also let the Canadian talk with the INQUIRER.

"I really want to go home, please help," the voice who introduced himself as Belanger said.

The voice said he was fine but that what he really wanted was to go home to Canada.

"Please tell my family in Davao that I am okay, but I want to go home," the supposed Belanger said.

He also said that his captors have treated him well.

"They give me good food, but I don't know what they (kidnapper) want," he said.

Earlier, Supt. Guillermo Lara, Davao del Sur police chief, said Belanger's disappearance could be a case of a "kidnap me" operation.

Lara also said the Canadian national was a pauper and was not capable of raising ransom money.

Belanger was last seen with another foreigner, identified as Robert Wood, heading for Digos on Nov. 3.

The following day, his neighbors in Barangay Balutakay, Hagonoy, saw Wood along with Alfredo Niebres Jr., coming in and out of the Canadian's house.

"They appeared to be very busy," a neighbor told police investigators.

Niebres was the one who told police on Nov. 7 that Belanger was snatched by the Abu Sayyaf.

Niebres was still being investigated by police when an unidentified gunman shot him, along with three others, on the night of Nov. 25.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ilocos Sur alliance files third graft case vs Singson

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE SAVE Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) has charged anew former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson with the Office of the Ombudsman, this time for the alleged technical malversation of a P30-million fund sourced from tobacco excise taxes.

On Nov. 21, the Sisa filed graft charges against Singson and five Ilocos Sur officials in connection with the alleged "ghost" purchase of a backhoe loader worth P9.5 million last year.

On Nov. 26, the same group filed charges against Singson for the purchase by the Ilocos Sur government of an allegedly overpriced parcel of land for P26 million in 1998.

Consolidate cases

With the filing of the third complaint yesterday, Sisa officials formally asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to consolidate all the graft cases so far filed against Singson into a single complaint for plunder.

They said the series of graft and corruption incidents were allegedly committed when he was still provincial governor.

"I urge the Ombudsman to act with dispatch on the complaint. No foot-dragging regardless of who gets hurts. He must immediately conduct the investigation and file the appropriate charges with the Sandiganbayan. I leave it to the sound discretion of the Ombudsman to decide whether these complaints when filed with the Sandigan should be consolidated with one plunder case or as individual cases as filed," said lawyer Estelita Cordero, Sisa legal counsel.

"However, with the recent Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the plunder law, we urge him to file one case of plunder against erring incumbent and former Ilocos Sur officials."

Denial

Singson denied the new charge, saying it was politically motivated and is being used by former President Joseph Estrada to discredit him.

"They are very aggressive in filing cases against me even though these would not prosper because that is their agreement with Estrada," Singson told the INQUIRER. "The people behind these cases are just disgruntled politicians."

The former governor said the latest charge was very weak, claiming that realigning of funds was "just normal in government."

"I would like to assure the people that all of these (cases) would be dismissed," he said.

In a four-page complaint, Sisa president Nestor Segismundo, secretary-general David Roca and Liborio Arca said Singson and three provincial government officials should be held liable for the missing P30-million fund intended for the establishment of a flue-curing and redrying plant in the province.

The other respondents were incumbent Ilocos Sur provincial government officials Ma. Victoria Cu, Erlita Arce and Antonio Gundran.

According to the complainants, records showed that the provincial government received in 1998 P200 million from the Department of Budget and Management as its share of the tobacco excise taxes under Republic Act 7171.

"Although it may be noted that this release was highlighted in the recent impeachment case against former President Joseph Estrada (which involved the amount of P130 million), this complaint refers to the balance of P30 million and (is thus) separate and distinct from Mr. Estrada's case," they said.

Other uses?

The complainants claimed that the fund was instead used for infrastructure projects, post-harvest facilities and barangay projects, "which have nothing to do with (the) purpose for which RA 7171 was legislated."

As of Dec. 1999, total disbursements charged against this fund reached P24.7 million.

They said funds for the establishment of a tobacco flue-curing and redrying plant in various municipalities of the province were released on Aug. 19, 1998.

"It is elementary that since specific projects were identified in said Saro (Special Allotment Release Order), the proceeds thereof should be disbursed only for those specific purposes.

Respondents' acts of applying said funds under their administration to uses other than those for which said funds were appropriated by ordinance constitutes as 'technical malversation,' and makes them criminally liable for violation of Article 220 of the Revised Penal Code," the complainants stressed.

It was still unclear whether Singson—who belied the allegations—would invoke his immunity from prosecution.

Singson was granted immunity by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto after he agreed to testify against Estrada in connection with the illegal gambling payoffs. However, the immunity only covers cases involving jueteng payoffs and the other charges lodged against Estrada.

Saying they were ready to face all consequences—even death—Segismundo and Roca vowed to see to it that Singson get punished for "stealing money and progress from Ilocos Sur."

THE BT-CORN trial planting site of Monsanto Philippines in Kibawe, Bukidnon, is enclosed with inner and outer fences to protect it from intruders.
BUTCH ENERIO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Farmers rally against Bt-corn

ILAGAN, Isabela—Farmers and church leaders opposing the field trials of genetically modified organism-laced crops in the province have staged a rally here as part of the nationwide protests against the trials.

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Diocese of Ilagan chancellor and spokesperson of the Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance of Isabela (Agmais), said at least 2,000 Isabela residents picketed on Tuesday last week the office of Monsanto-Philippines here, the proponent of the Bt-corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis*-laced corn) trials in the province.

"We went ahead of schedule as the national (secretariat) told us to go on (with the protests). So we conducted the protest rally earlier than the other regions," Uanan said, referring to the protest actions set in the Bicol provinces and in Bukidnon.

Melchor Batalla, Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela president, said they would also raise the Bt-corn issue during the International Human Rights Day celebration on Dec. 10 in Isabela.

Dr. Arnold Estrada, Monsanto-Philippines product development manager, told the INQUIRER on Thursday that he was not aware of the nationwide protests.

A post-harvest report by Monsanto on the Bt-corn showed an increased yield.

Estrada said the Bt-corn variety was confirmed resistant to corn borer because the *Bacillus thuringiensis* gene causes the plant to produce a protective protein in its tissues that is harmful to some insect pests.

He said their data were gathered from six different trial sites: Echague, Ilagan and Cauayan City in Isabela; Kibawe, Bukidnon; Tigaon, Camarines Sur; and Sta. Maria, Pangasinan. The experimental sites were set up in July this year.

Uanan earlier admitted to the INQUIRER that the Bt-corn is effective against corn borer and it is high yielding.

"That Bt-corn is effective against corn borer and it is high yielding is given. We do not question that," he said. He said, however, the Bt-corn plants' high-yielding feature "should not be used to deceive the people."

He said once the Bt-corn is commercialized, a farmer could only plant Bt-corn seeds in about 60 percent of his farm as the remaining 40 percent would need to be planted with other corn varieties to serve as "refugia."

Refugia, Uanan said, is needed so that the corn borer will not immediately develop resistance against the *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacteria.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Camarines Sur gov't plans center for nurses, caregivers

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The provincial government will open next year an educational center for nurses and caregivers who intend to find jobs outside the country, Gov. Luis Villafuerte said.

The facility was conceived in response to the difficulties faced by overseas contract workers in foreign countries.

Villafuerte said that in Hong Kong, which he visited in October, more than 8,000 of the 170,000 Filipino caregivers are from Bicol.

Most of them are fluent in English but very few can speak Cantonese, which has proved to be a deficiency in many situations, he said.

"Though Hong Kong citizens can speak English, the caregivers need to learn Cantonese so that they can understand simple conversation and prevent their employers from exploiting them," the governor said.

Payback

Villafuerte said the education center would offer language training on conversational and functional foreign language. The course includes easy-to-learn conversational lines, common questions, greetings and instructions, as well as the do's and don'ts in a given culture.

He said he found the conversational and functional foreign language training for caregivers as a way for the government to give back the huge foreign remittances that the overseas contract workers contribute to the economy. The remittances have reached some $6 billion this year, he said.

Villafuerte said a caregiver in Hong Kong receives an average monthly salary equivalent to P24,000, and if the government can help the caregivers develop their financial potentials into a self-help facility, they themselves would have enough funds to solve their problems.

He said that with a P1,000 contribution a month from a caregiver, a trust fund of P170 million can be easily put up from the caregivers working in Hong Kong.

This is enough to finance any services that address their multifaceted problems, which the government cannot attend to, he said.

Advance training

Villafuerte said the educational center would later offer advance training like one that will encourage caregivers to systematize their collective financial resources to help them survive in foreign land.

"This advance modular training will be offered to those who have been caregivers and wish to go back for employment abroad," he said.

The governor said the three-story building nearing completion near the Bicol Medical Center on Panganiban Drive would serve as the educational center of caregivers who will apply for employment abroad.

Villafuerte said some of the language training to be offered would include conversational Cantonese, Arabic, Taiwanese and Japanese.

He said the training would also include cultural acclimatization to the countries where the caregivers intend to seek employment.

Open to nurses

The governor said the center was also open to nurses who would want to enroll in the CGFNS review classes. He said the review is offered to those who want to apply for jobs in the United States.

Villafuerte, who was part of the official delegation during the US state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo last month, said he had already conducted initial talks with the US-based Kaplan International review center.

Kaplan pledged to provide the technical input of the review classes at the educational center, he said.

He said the center's services for the nurses included facilitation for direct employment in hospitals in the US, where the demand has grown to at least 700,000 this year.

Villafuerte said the provincial government was studying the scheme by which to skirt the placement agencies that collect the biggest share from the fees the nurses pay before they leave for the US.

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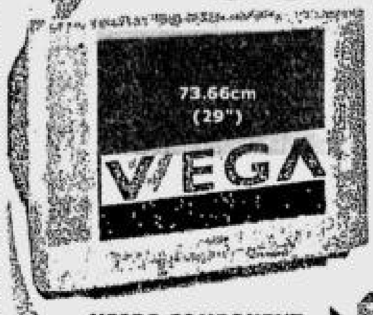

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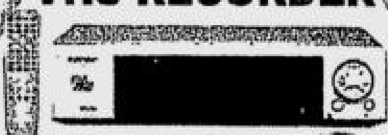

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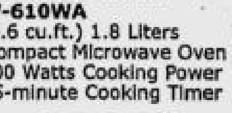

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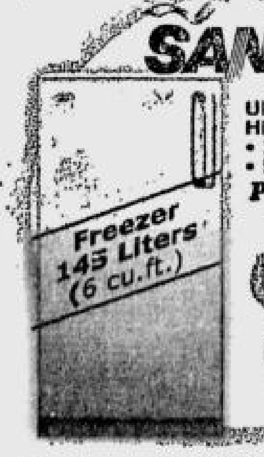

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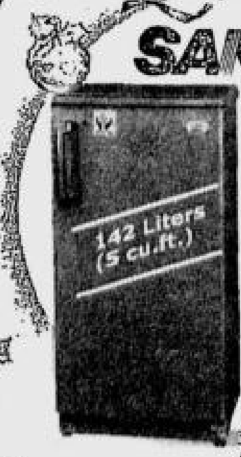

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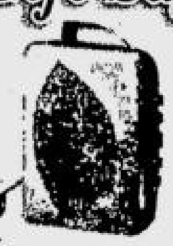

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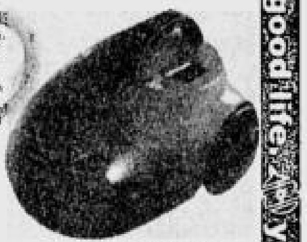

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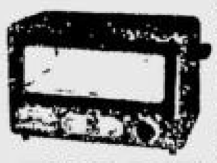

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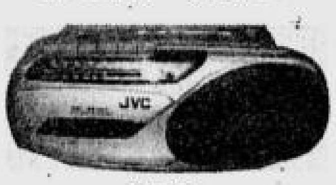

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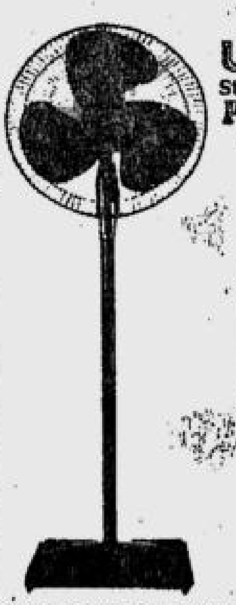

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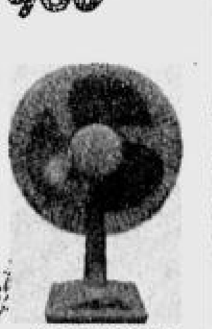

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Notice of violation sought for Agno cement plant proponent

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has recommended the issuance of a notice of violation against the proponent of a cement plant complex in Agno town for not meeting the conditions set in the firm's environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

In a memorandum for Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Oscar Cabanayan, officer-in-charge of the DENR's regional environmental management bureau (EMB), said Goldsun Cement Corp. has not started construction or development in the proposed site of the plant since the ECC was approved in 1999.

Cabanayan said Goldsun also failed to accomplish most of the 55 conditions set in its ECC, such as the conditions on information dissemination and the submission of an environmental protection and enhancement program.

An EMB report said of the 55 conditions set in the ECC, only one was complied with. This was Condition No. 21 on the monitoring and inspection by the DENR regional office and the EMB's monitoring of the project's environment impact and compliance with the ECC's condition.

The controversial project's ECC, issued in March 1999 by the DENR, automatically expired in March or after two years, when Goldsun did not start the project.

However, then acting Environment Secretary Joemari Gerochi extended the ECC's life by two years.

When Alvarez assumed the leadership of DENR, he suspended the ECC but called for its monitoring by the regional EMB.

Goldsun and its partner companies proposed a P13-billion cement plant complex that includes a power plant, a pier and a quarry site in the coastal Barangay Abagatanen in Agno.

Town residents and members of non-government groups, however, opposed the project for fear it would destroy the town's environment.

The residents said they would like to develop their town into an eco-tourism area as specified in the provincial land use plan.

Council backs nickel project

Palawan agency endorses issuance of ECC to firm

By Jofelle Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), an administrative body governing environmental projects in the province, has endorsed the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate to a mining project here.

The PCSD members deliberated on their endorsement at the UP Bahay ng Alumni in Quezon City in the presence of local officials, non-government group representatives and top officers of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC).

Officers of RTNMC, headed by owner and president Manny Zamora, and their foreign partner, Japan's mining giant Sumitomo Metal Mining Corp., came in full force.

Zamora was also accompanied by former environment secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., said to be the president of the Gaia South consultancy firm that made the environmental impact assessment of the $150-million nickel refinery complex in Rio Tuba in Bataraza town.

The meeting was held in Manila to accommodate the Japanese representatives of Sumitomo who were prohibited by a travel advisory from going to Palawan.

The RTNMC officers cheered and clapped their hands after the PCSD came out with its decision.

Ofie Bernardino, executive director of the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), however, cried after witnessing how the proceedings went.

"It's a political decision. They didn't even consider the comments and recommendations of their technical staff before giving the endorsement," Bernardino said.

She said she was not at the session hall when the endorsement was approved.

Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval (first district), council chair, apparently called a recess and told other members to immediately approve the nickel refinery complex because the endorsement would be the last in the application process for the ECC.

Upon hearing this, Bernardino said she left the room as she was beginning to feel bad about the proceedings.

When she came back minutes later, she said she saw the mining proponents clapping, laughing, cheering and shaking hands with the council members.

She found that the session immediately resumed and the council gave its endorsement in her absence.

Bernardino called the attention of the council members and spoke in behalf of the PNNI and those others who opposed the mining project.

She said she invoked her right to participate in the casting of votes but, according to her, Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra (second district), another council member, said her presence was not important as she had no voting power.

Only the original NGO representative can vote, the PCSD said.

Bernardino attended in behalf of Fr. Armando Limsa, the appointed representative.

In her speech, Bernardino said she was frustrated and could not fathom the logic behind the immediate approval of the project.

She said the PCSD technical team had not yet submitted its findings and a lot of questions was still left unanswered.

"I cannot understand how you can decide on such a project, which would bring environmental destruction to the province of Palawan. It is an irony that we're convening here. The Strategic Environmental Plan, the law that created this body primarily recognizes the fact that Palawan is facing environmental degradation," she said.

The NGOs still maintain their opposition together with other residents, mostly Palawan tribes, who are affected by the nickel refinery complex.

"It's not the end yet. We will go to the DENR and even Supreme Court. The council violated the Environmental Impact Assessment process," lawyer Gerthie Mayo-Anda of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center said.

PCSD executive director Joselito Alisuag defended the council's decision, saying the members did what they thought was right, not only for the environment but also for the economy.

"Although it was critical on the environmental aspect, the site of the nickel refinery complex is within the multiple-use zone. If there were opposition (groups), they're not the majority," he said.

Alisuag said the PCSD would monitor the activities of the company and ensure that the conditions in the ECC, if granted, will be followed strictly.

He said the council could not afford to turn down the proposal because it is the biggest mining investment in the province so far.

He admitted that the endorsement was a swift decision and there are political influences because the national government wants to project a positive investment climate.

"We have to balance environmental protection and development but we will be there in every step of the way," he said.

On the alleged deliberate omission of Bernardino's participation in the casting of votes, he said they were not aware that there were still people outside the session hall.

They just realized it when Bernardino asked if she could speak even if the endorsement was already over.

Alisuag is a former director of Haribon Foundation, an NGO operating in Palawan.

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Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET)

37th Annual Convention • December 6-8, 2001 • Manila Midtown Hotel

The Philippine Association of Medical Technologist (PAMET) is the only national organization of registered Medical Technologists in the Philippines. It is a member of the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (IAMLT), the ASEAN Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists (AAMLT), the Asian Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AAMLS), the Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA), the Council of Health of Agencies of the Philippines (CHAP), and the Philippine Council of Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories (PCQACL); and the Council of Philippine Health Associations (COPHA).

The PAMET has been named the Most Outstanding Member Association of the Council of Health Agencies of the Philippines for the year 2001.

Ms. Agnes Medenilla is the PAMET President, Secretary of the AAMLT and the Auditor of the AAMLS. Ms. Norma Chang is the immediate Past President of PAMET, President of the AAMLT and Secretary/Treasurer of the AAMLS.

The PAMET has forty seven (47) Chapters in the country. It bestows scholarships grants in collaboration with P&G and the Japan International Medical Technology educational Foundation. It organizes development programs, scientific workshops and conferences geared towards the continuing professional education of its members. It has worked with government and non-government institutions in national health programs. It has adopted communities for years for its medical outreach projects. Together with the Philippine Association of Schools for Medical Technologists under the supervision of CHED, it is engaged in a continuous task to review the Medical Technology curriculum to ensure its relevance to the profession and in national health care.

Then and now, the PAMET has remained faithful to its goals to create and maintain the highest standards in the practice of Medical Technology and Research and to create mutual understanding and cooperation with allied medical professional associations and institutions both local and international.

I am happy to extend my warmest felicitations to the men and women of the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)** as they hold their 37th Annual Convention.

Your 37th Annual Convention with the theme, "Empowered Medical Technologist: Catalyst of Change," reflects the PAMET's unwavering dedication in protecting and upholding the health of the Filipino people. Indeed, your triumph in ensuring that medical technology continues to serve the best interest of our people translates into better health and lives of a great number of our people.

As you look back with pride and joy through all these past fruitful years, may you derive inspiration from all the officers and members who have come before you and have performed their duties well in the name of your cause to safeguard the health of our people. May you recommit yourselves to the pursuit of excellence and innovation in this dynamic and fast evolving allied medical profession that have brought PAMET to its present stature.

Finally, it is my hope that PAMET will strengthen its ties with the government and the rest of the members of our society. This is for us to be able to effectively address the challenges of providing accessible and quality medical and allied services to the present generation of our people.

Congratulations and more power to all of you!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Phils.

My warmest felicitations to the members of the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)** on its 37th National Convention on December 6-8, 2001.

Beyond peradventure, this prestigious convention, with the theme: "Empowered Medical Technologist: Catalyst of Change," will provide opportunities to the members to foster camaraderie and expand their business network. It will be a venue to gain knowledge indispensable in this Age of the New Economy which is propelled primarily by the rapid changing world of technology. In this exceptionally trying time, this assembly will indeed offer much needed implements for surviving this highly competitive global economy.

I commend the members of PAMET for their unwavering commitment to elevate the standards of the Medical Technology profession to the highest level of integrity and competence. Their endeavors indeed contribute to nation building as they play an important role in the country's growth and progress.

I, therefore, exhort the distinguished officers and members of this prestigious organization to persevere in all their worthwhile endeavors.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.
Vice President, Republic of the Phils.

Keynote Speaker
The Honorable Antonio Yapha Chair, Committee on Health
To be represented by The Honorable Celia Taganas Layus. Vice Chair, Committee on Health, House of Representatives

I wish to take the occasion to congratulate the officers and members of the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET).** And those which made this biggest gathering of medical technologists in the country possible.

In a well-functioning health system, we increasingly depend on the capability of human resources such as physicians, nurses and medical technologists in the delivery of healthy services. Medical technologists perform laboratory tests to determine the nature of illness, the results of which serve as basis to attending physicians in determining accurate ways and means to handle their patients. At all times, our collective goal is not only to provide access but to adequately cover the various health needs of people.

The challenge to us then, particularly the participants is to create motivational strategies to update the knowledge and skills of our medical technologists with the end objective of ensuring their effective performance. In this opportune occasion, let us be united in preparing them to confront the challenges of the medical world.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Antonio P. Yapha, Jr., M.D.
Chairperson, Committee on Health
House of Representatives

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)** on the occasion of your 37th Annual Convention.

The health condition of many Filipinos has greatly improved over the last 50 years. However, despite these improvements, we are still faced with numerous gaps and challenges that need to be effectively addressed by various stakeholders.

In response to this situation, the Department of Health has embarked on reforms in the health sector which involves effecting changes across the five interrelated aspects of health care including public health, hospital, regulations, health care financing and local health systems development.

As an integral component of the health sector, PAMET has a vital role to play in improving the quality of healthcare in the country. Your theme, "Empowered Medical Technologists: Catalysts of Change", recognizes the importance of instilling a sense of shared and self-responsibility in helping effect a genuine transformation of the health system into one that is more responsive to the health needs of the people, with a special bias towards the poor and the less privileged.

The Department of Health recognizes your organization's invaluable contribution towards making quality health care accessible to more Filipinos, thereby addressing the lingering issues on equity in health.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

Manuel M. Dayrit, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

My warmest congratulations and greetings to the participants of the 37th Annual Convention of the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists Inc. (PAMET)** on 6-8 December 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Your theme "Empowered Medical Technologist: Catalyst of Change" describes the challenge given to each and every member of PAMET and to PAMET itself as an organization.

As individual medical technologists, each of you can be a source of health information to a population seeking empowerment against crippling preventable diseases.

As an organization, PAMET has the responsibility to equip their members with adequate and up to date information for dissemination to the people.

On this occasion, I would like to thank you once again for helping your government bring health to the people. Let us continue to be partners for our children's brighter tomorrow.

Again, my congratulations.

Let's DOH it at MABUHAY kayong lahat!

Juan M. Flavier, MD, M.P.H.
Chairperson, Committee on Health
Senate

The Professional Regulation Commission conveys its sincerest congratulations to the **Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET)** on the occasion of its 37th Annual Convention on December 6-8.

The PRC acknowledges the leadership that PAMET assumes in leading the thousands of medical technology practitioners in the country towards professional growth and development. Thus, I commend the association for aptly choosing the theme, "Empowered Medical Technologist: Catalyst of Change." To foster change in this age of technology and globalization, we must nurture a corps of empowered medical technologists to provide quality healthcare services.

The sweeping changes transforming the world today caused by the liberalization of trade in services and IT manifest the growing challenge for your profession to constantly strive for excellence. You must, therefore, be globally ready by possessing the right competencies to ably compete with the best of the world.

I trust that your pursuit for professional development equally matches your zeal in sustaining a healthy and vibrant community for the Filipino people. I am confident that the PAMET will continue to advocate professional development and service among its members.

Continue to raise high the bar of excellence in order to bring your profession to greater heights. More Power!

Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe
Commission Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission

Organizing Committee Chairpersons

Leila Florento
Scientific Sessions

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Immediate Past Pres.

Welcome to the 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologist.

We have always looked forward to this yearly event, which gives us an opportunity to bring together members of the medical technology profession in a series of scientific sessions and updates. This provides us also the perfect chance to promote camaraderie and cooperation among peers and colleagues from the various regions of the country.

This year's theme "Empowered Medical Technologist: Catalyst of Change" is a reflection of the current trend of bringing the best and creativity in people thru Empowerment. The medical technologists is a receptive, dynamic and adaptable individual who can become an instrument of change, progress and peace.

The Convention features lectures and roundtable discussions with local and international experts. There will be an excellent display and demonstration of new laboratory technology from more than forty diagnostic companies. We enjoin the delegates to take the opportunity of hearing and seeing new procedures and techniques.

Our warmest invitation to the convention activities.

Agnes B. Medenilla
President
Philippine Association of Medical Technologists

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Cops kill 3 members of new Red group

ANGELES CITY—Police uncovered the existence of an armed communist group here after they killed three of its members in an entrapment on Tuesday night.

The three men, identified as urban operatives of the Maralitang Hukbong Bayan (MHB), were killed in a shootout following a foiled extortion attempt on a businessman in Barangay Pandan here, a police report said.

The report identified only one of those killed as Martin Tolentino, 23, also of Pandan. The two others are both in their 30s.

The three reportedly demanded P100,000 from businessman Rodolfo de Guzman. They also sought P10,000 in "monthly contributions," letters reportedly obtained by the police showed.

The letters identified the solicitors as members of the MHB, an unknown group until the Tuesday shootout along Magalang Road in Pandan, where the lawmen trapped the suspects.

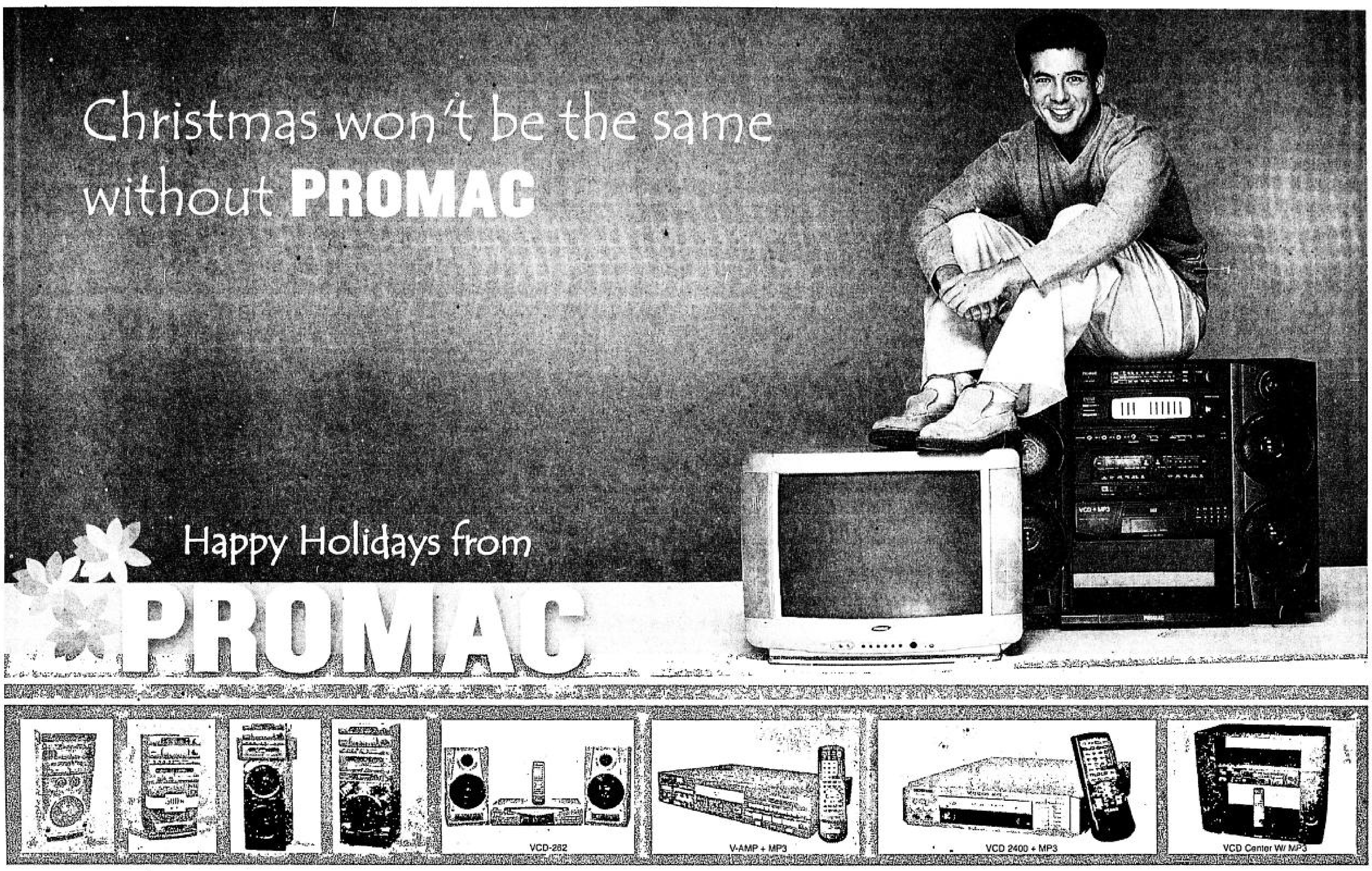
The discovery of the MHB brought to six the number of armed communist groups in Pampanga identified by the police.

These are the New People's Army, its breakaway group the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the old Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan, the Rebolusyonaryong Gerilyang Arayat and the "Hukbong Kanin" operating in Candaba, the police said.

Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Angeles City police chief, said this was the "first time" that police in the city encountered the armed group.

He said extortion groups might have used the MHB as a front for their activities.

Police reported seizing a .38 cal. pistol, a Smith and Wesson magnum revolver, a hand grenade, anti-government documents and P2,500 after the shootout. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



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For your meritorious accomplishments as Chair of the Public Finance Institute of the Philippines and the Presidential Task Force on Tax and Tariff Reforms, and as the Fiscal Adviser of the Philippine Senate in the Senate Tax Study and Research Office;

For having reaped one distinguished award after another, such as the Distinguished Alumnus Award from your Alma Mater, the University of the East; the Medal of Honor from the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation; the Achievement Award from the National Research Council of the Philippines; and the Plaque from the International Fiscal Association (Malaysian Chapter), which gave prestige and honor to your Alma Mater;

The University of the East, upon the recommendation of the Academic Council, and by the authority granted to it by the Commission on Higher Education in testimony of the highest rank and honor inherent in the recognition, confers upon you the degree of **DOCTOR OF LAWS, *Honoris Causa*,** and invests you with the full regalia of your rank with the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining on this *seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and one.*

THIRD MID-YEAR COMMENCEMENT RITES AND CONFERMENT OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS, *HONORIS CAUSA*
December 7, 2001 • 3:00 P.M.
Philippine International
Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd.,
Pasay City

Commencement Speaker:
Dr. ANGEL Q. YOINGCO

Graduates with Latin Honors

JOANNA G. DIONISIO
Cum Laude
College of Arts and Sciences
Manila

JACKY T. SARITA
Cum Laude
College of Arts and Sciences
Manila

Armed men hijack truck with flour cargo; 1 killed

NAGA CITY—Five armed persons hijacked a 10-wheel truck loaded with 20,000 bags of flour on Tuesday night in Sipocot town and killed the driver's helper.

They dumped the driver, Renato Gutierrez, at a bridge at Barangay Cararayan, this city.

Gutierrez, a native of Quezon province, told police that the hijackers hitched a ride when he and his helper were about to board the truck after a meal stop in Sipocot.

While they were cruising on Maharlika Highway on their way to Naga, the hijackers overpowered and blindfolded them, and tied their hands with wire, he said.

Gutierrez said he was dumped at a bridge but he managed to crawl and ask for help from a barangay *tanod* in Cararayan early Wednesday morning.

While the driver was in the custody of the city police, the body of a man was found at a vacant lot in Milaor town. The victim was blindfolded and bore 19 stab wounds, while his hands were tied with wire.

Gutierrez later identified the body as that of his helper, whom he identified only as Romy, of Lucena City.

Supt. Eliciar Bron, Naga police chief, said Gutierrez revealed that he allowed the hijackers to hitch a ride in his truck because he knew one of them.

Gutierrez, who suffered several contusions, was brought to the Bicol Medical Center. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Angara firm asked: Who owns coco shares?

(From page A1)

Coconut Producers (Cocofed).

Haydee Yorac, PCGG chair, also wants Accra lawyers to disclose the principals of the 14 holding firms as she expressed willingness to hear proposals from SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. for a compromise agreement on the P50 billion in coco levy funds.

"These principals are supposed to be members of Cocofed," Yorac said in a press conference, the first on the controversial coco levy settlement.

She said Accra lawyers should reveal their true principals so that "we can determine whether it is really the poor farmers in the countryside who are going to benefit from this and not just a few farmers on the favored side of Cocofed."

The SMC shares were acquired by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) using the coco levy that the government collected from 1973 to 1982.

The PCGG sequestered the 14 holding companies during the Aquino administration.

Vic Fabe, chair of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama), said the compromise deal signed between several farmers' groups and Cocofed sought to "liquefy the coco levy funds and hold these still unrevealed trustors as the owners of the levy funds."

Cojuangco, SMC chair, and Cocofed head Ma. Clara Lobregat, mayor of Zamboanga City, encouraged the farmers to sign the deal on Oct. 28.

The settlement seeks to create a perpetual trust fund using the P50 billion invested in SMC shares. Under the deal, coconut farmers are supposed to get 40 percent of the interest earning of the perpetual fund, the government 25 percent and Cocofed, 20 percent. Fifteen percent goes back to the trust fund as proposed by Cojuangco.

"Coconut farmers will not benefit from the coco levy funds in SMC if the 14 clients of Accra shall continue to own the shares," Fabe said.

Fabe said this was not known to the farmers who attended the consultations called by Efren Villaseñor, director of the Philippine Coconut Authority. Villaseñor signed the deal on behalf of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN).

"They (farmers) did not know that it was Danding who would greatly benefit from the deal. No wonder he was present during the signing (of the compromise agreement)," Fabe said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, will reportedly summon Accra lawyers to have them identify the owners of the 14 holding companies believed to be dummies of Cojuangco.

The law firm was also said to be responsible for drafting the various presidential decrees on the coco levy that the late President Ferdinand Marcos had issued.

Rudy Pizarra, a coconut farmer from Catanauan, Quezon, said they were not told by Villaseñor during the consultations that the CIIF's investment in 31 percent of SMC, was owned by 14 companies allegedly fronting for Cojuangco.

"What Ka Efren told us was that we should choose between revolution and negotiation, that the coco levy (cases) were 'hopeless' and that we should have the money now," Pizarra said.

The United Coconut Planters Bank, designated administrator of the coconut levy funds, invested the CIIF in shares of stocks in various corporations, including SMC.

The shares of stock in SMC acquired through the use of the CIIF were registered in the names of various corporations.

The ownership of the coconut levy funds as well as the 250 companies, assets and properties acquired through the use of the funds, is still pending in the Sandiganbayan, an anti-graft court.

Cojuangco, along with 60 other people, are respondents in Civil Case No. 0033.

The levy collected from 1973 to 1982 totaled P9.6 billion then, but has now grown to an estimated P130 billion tied up in shares in several sequestered companies.

Of the amount, P70 billion is tied up in 47 percent of SMC, but Cojuangco, who assumed chairmanship of SMC after his friend Joseph Estrada became President in 1998, had maintained that the 20-percent investment came from his personal funds.

Because the PCGG could not force Accra lawyers to name their principals in court, they should name these principals during the negotiations with Cojuangco.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that lawyers could not be forced to name their clients.

"That is of course true. But for the purpose of coming to some kind of settlement for the benefit of all, the parties can change their legal stance and identify once and for all who these unidentified principals are," Yorac said.

Not a fortune teller

She explained that this should be a "voluntary thing."

Asked who the principals of the Accra lawyers were, she said, "I have no idea. I am a lawyer, not a fortune teller."

Asked if the principals were connected to Cojuangco, she said, "My suspicion is irrelevant here. What we want to do is to find out who these people are so that we are not limited to them (Accra lawyers) as trustors."

Yorac said the negotiations must be open and transparent.

The PCGG chair said Cojuangco would still have to respect the conditions for an interim formula on the compromise settlement of the PCGG, namely that these funds are public in character and that all coconut farmers be the real beneficiaries of the trust fund.

"We are prepared to listen to anyone who has ideas about this," Yorac said.

Yorac said that the PCGG was "waiting for proposals from all interested parties," including Cocofed.

But she said the PCGG would "not want the beneficiaries to be limited to the coco farmers connected with the Cocofed."

"We want the funds to be utilized for all even the unorganized coco farmers," Yorac stressed.

She said the PCGG wanted "a principled and a correct settlement."

The feisty PCGG chair said that her office had "nothing against an interim arrangement" that would "effectively make accessible the (coco levy) funds to the real poor farmers in the countryside."

"We also have nothing against an early settlement of the coco levy case. But as I said we must do it in the right way," Yorac said.

Two conditions

"There are certain things that must be met. There must be no prejudice to the position of government that these are public funds. And second, the funds must be made accessible to all poor farmers, not only some privileged farmers," she said.

Yorac said that the proposal presented so far by Cocofed and publisher Dante Ang supposedly submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo was "objectionable" to the PCGG because it skirted the issue of whether these were public or private funds.

The proposed compromise settlement implicitly established that the coco levy funds were private funds.

The PCGG maintains that the coco levy monies were public funds because these were collected through the state's power to impose taxes.

Yorac said that the Supreme Court had declared that the funds were "imbued with public interest" and that it was up to the other side to prove or present evidence that these were private funds.

Desperation

The PCGG chair said that it was probably desperation that had goaded some coconut farmers to enter into an agreement with Cojuangco on the coco levy funds.

"We understand the position of many small coco farmers. They are impatient. They have waited for more than 15 years. The poor farmers are still poor," Yorac said.

"They cannot send their children to school. They cannot eat three times a day. They cannot buy medicine when they get sick. It's really a terrible situation for the poor farmers," she said.

"On the other hand, I do not think that impatience and desperation should push us into entering into any kind of compromise at all. So these are the two things that we want to be sure of," Yorac stressed.

Taliban leader agrees to surrender Kandahar

(From page A1)

country," he said. "They are criminals."

Earlier, a stray US smart bomb killed three American soldiers and wounded 20 other Green Berets as US warplanes hammered Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan and an al-Qaida cave complex in the eastern mountains.

At the UN headquarters, the Security Council welcomed an agreement signed by Afghan groups in Germany to set up an interim government in Afghanistan.

But the Security Council postponed a decision authorizing an international military force to support such an interim government.

World leaders hailed the deal as a first step to sustainable peace in the war-ravaged country, with British Prime Minister Tony Blair calling it "a truly remarkable achievement" giving Afghanistan "the chance for a new beginning."

US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld ordered an investigation into the mistaken bombing in Afghanistan that killed three US Army Green Berets and 20 other Americans on Wednesday when an Air Force B-52 dropped a one-ton bomb near them.

The soldiers had called in the air strike to hit Taliban forces they were fighting near the militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar.

Five anti-Taliban Afghan fighters also were killed and another 18 were wounded.

Pentagon officials said they could not immediately explain what went wrong in the deadliest "friendly fire" accident of the war.

The bomb, guided by a satellite navigation system, is considered one of the most accurate weapons in the US arsenal. It was used for the first time in combat in Kosovo in 1999.

Whatever the cause, the accident illustrated the danger to US forces calling in air strikes.

"I, along with the rest of America, grieve for the loss of life in Afghanistan," US President George W. Bush said during an Oval Office appearance. "I want the families to know that they died for a noble and just cause." The deaths bring to four the number of Americans killed inside Afghanistan in the two-month war. A CIA officer was killed on Nov. 25 in a prison uprising while he was questioning captured Taliban fighters.

US Marines

In southern Afghanistan, US Marines joined an anti-Taliban force in laying siege to Kandahar in their first offensive operation since seizing a desert airfield south of the Taliban's stronghold on Nov. 25.

US commandos are in the region to track down Osama bin Laden, who is accused of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks that left about 3,500 people dead or missing in the United States.

Also on Thursday, US warplanes provided support to Afghan tribal militia that fanned out in mountains near Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan where Bin Laden kept an elaborate cave base protected by hundreds of Arab fighters.

Sohrab Khan, commander in charge of the operations, said his forces now controlled half of the area around the Tora Bora cave complex.

The Afghan Islamic Press reported that US bombing triggered a huge forest fire Thursday in the mountains near Bin Laden's hideout.

The Paris-based Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders) aid group said Wednesday that more than 80 civilians had been killed and 50 wounded since US warplanes started bombing the Tora Bora region on Dec. 1.

Provincial officials said that an air strike Monday devastated the al-Qaida leadership, killing at least 10 officials and wounding Ayman al-Zawahri, Bin Laden's top deputy.

Bonn accord

In Bonn, four Afghan factions Wednesday concluded nine days of tough negotiations by sealing an agreement that paves the way for a six-month administration headed by Karzai, a royalist from the dominant Pashtun ethnic group that has traditionally ruled Afghanistan.

In a marked departure from Taliban policy that barred women from any public activity—including work and education—the 30-member Cabinet that will take office Dec. 22 includes two women.

The powerful Northern Alliance, which controls much of the country including Kabul, kept the key portfolios of defense, foreign affairs and the interior. Minority Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras dominate the alliance.

Sidelined by the Bonn agreement was Burhanuddin Rabbani, a 61-year-old theologian whose 1992-1996 administration was marked by factional fighting that killed thousands of civilians.

Karzai, 44, a former deputy foreign minister and an ally of exiled king Mohammed Zahir Shah, will chair the ruling panel until a traditional "loya jirga" assembly of tribal elders names an 18-month transition government in the run-up to elections.

Karzai's credentials include his record as a combatant, first against Soviet occupiers, then against the Taliban.

Unusual activity

Unusual American military activity in the Northern Mariana Islands Thursday sparked speculation that a Pacific island once used to launch the atomic bomb attacks on Japan is about to become an al-Qaida/Taliban detention camp.

The Saipan Tribune Thursday reported that the US Air Force was unloading heavy equipment onto the same runway used for those attacks, and it added Northern Mariana Island residents were increasingly concerned at the possibility of it being turned into a prison island.

In 1945 the United States used Tinian Island to mount the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Reports from AP and AFP

Storm brings floods . . .

(From page A1)

Packing peak winds of 85 kph, Quedan caused the cancellation and diversion of a number of domestic flights to the central islands, airline officials said.

Strong winds also toppled power lines between the towns of Sogod and Malitbog in Southern Leyte, leaving the whole province without electricity since Wednesday.

Power interruptions were also reported in Guimaras, Capiz, Negros Occidental and Aklan. Some towns in Iloilo province also experienced power outages, according to the Office of Civil Defense in Western Visayas.

Quedan also brought heavy rains to Southern Luzon but had been steadily drifting away toward Palawan.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the storm was expected to be 230 km west of Coron, Palawan, this afternoon.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, it was spotted 120 km east of Coron and 70 km south of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Pagasa said that at 4:45 p.m., Quedan drifted northward and was heading toward the Calamian Group of Islands in northern Palawan.

It was expected to move westward at 15 kph with peak winds of 85 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kph.

Public storm Signal No. 2 is up over southern Mindoro, northern Palawan, Cuyo Island, Antique and western Aklan, including Boracay Island.

Signal No. 2 was also raised over Batangas, Lubang Island, the rest of Mindoro, Romblon, the rest of Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Guimaras, the rest of Palawan and northern Negros.

Blackout

In Negros Occidental, the blackout hit the northern cities of Talisay, Silay, Victorias, Cadiz, Sagay, Escalante and San Carlos, and the towns of Toboso, Calatrava, Manapla and E.B. Magalona.

Power services were partly restored in the Panay provinces and in Negros Occidental yesterday.

Water service was also cut off since Wednesday night in Maasin City, the capital of Southern Leyte, when strong current busted the main pipe of the Maasin Water District across the Laboon River.

A landslide in Barangay Patag, Naga town in Cebu buried 14-year-old Juan Enceso on Wednesday night. The boy was already dead when recovered by rescuers early yesterday morning, a report from the Regional Disaster and Coordinating Council in Central Visayas said.

The other fatality was reported in the town of Carigara in Leyte. The victim, Teodulo Lauron, was killed when he was hit on the head by a falling coconut tree, the RDCC in Eastern Visayas said.

Evacuees

Reports from the civil defense offices and the RDCCs in the three Visayan regions said at least 2,500 families were evacuated: 566 in Cebu, 655 in Negros Occidental, 500 in Leyte, 400 in Tacloban City, and about 400 in Capiz.

In Maasin, seven crewmembers of a motorized banca plying the route from Ubay in Bohol were rescued yesterday after their vessel developed engine trouble at 9 a.m. on Wednesday and drifted for 11 hours at the sea off Barangay Ibarra of Maasin.

Rescuers towed the banca owned by Manuel Palamaran, of Ubay, to Barangay Inchon in Macrohon town.

In Metro Cebu, the non-stop downpour since Wednesday morning caused heavy floods in eight downtown villages and caused landslides in three mountain villages of Cebu City.

Six villages were also flooded in Mandaue City.

The rains also caused water under the Tinaan Bridge in the southern Cebu town of Naga to overflow, prompting rescuers to evacuate at least 26 families.

The bridge was reopened to traffic yesterday after the river's water level went back to normal.

In Mandaue, six barangays remained submerged in floodwater until yesterday morning. Floodwaters were reported to have risen neck-deep at Sitio Sapa-Sapa.

Transport services were also disrupted at the height of the storm.

Stranded

At least 20 passengers were stranded and sought shelter at the Cebu City Hall building as bus trips to areas outside the city were stopped.

Seventy people bound for Negros Occidental were stranded at the port of Toledo City. Others going to Bantayan Island stayed at the San Remegio Elementary School since no boats were allowed to sail by the Coast Guard since Wednesday morning.

In Leyte, heavy flooding was reported in the towns of Abuyog, MacArthur, Palo, Burauen and Dagami.

The Calubian-Tabango-San Isidro-Villaba road section was rendered impassable due to landslides, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported.

In Capiz, floods forced more than 400 families in Panit-an and Mambusao towns to transfer to evacuation centers.

In Barangay Caano, Kalibo, the capital town of Aklan, eight families moved to a chapel after their homes were whipped by a whirlwind around 5 p.m. on Wednesday. They were given relief by the municipal disaster coordinating council.

In Iloilo, many schools suspended classes yesterday, but government and private offices stayed opened. ***Reports from Debra Jane V. Magallon, Joey A. Gabieta, Jani Arnaiz, Ma. Diosa Labiste, Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; and AFP***

Bin Laden fad fast fading in Pakistan

(From page A1)

the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which the Saudi dissident is accused of masterminding.

Today daily sales are down to 15 or 20, he said.

"I was earning a lot just from selling his posters and masks and those newspapers which carried his pictures, but I think his attraction has come down in the past few weeks," Ahmed told AFP.

A clothing merchant, Saeed Ahmed, who had earlier ordered 2,000 T-shirts bearing Bin Laden's picture for the Muslims' upcoming Eid festival, has cut the order back to 300 because, he said, "the consumers are lukewarm."

The craze for Bin Laden memorabilia reached a peak during protests in October against the US-led bombing campaign in Afghanistan, aimed at flushing the alleged terrorist out and destroying his Taliban hosts who refused to hand him over.

But the protests fizzled out even quicker than the Taliban's grip on power. Taliban fighters currently still cling to their last citadel, Kandahar, but they are surrounded by opposition forces and are being pounded daily by US bombers.

The popularity of Bin Laden, believed to be hiding out in Afghanistan's mountain caves either near Kandahar in the south or Jalalabad in the east, waned rapidly in Pakistan.

"He came like a season and went in similar fashion," said Alia Farooqui, a university student.

Students, including girls, idolized him as a "Rambo" figure challenging the "infidel" forces and wore T-shirts bearing his portrait to campus.

Osama's heroic image, however, has been shattered in student circles.

"Now we discuss whether he used the Taliban, or whether it was the other way round. Whatever the case may be, it seems those who suffered the most were the millions of poor Afghans," she said.

Bin Laden, however, is still hailed a "hero of Islam" in areas of the city dominated by Pashtuns—the ethnic group which spawned the Taliban.

"People are still anxiously waiting for Osama's retaliation against the US attack on Afghanistan," said Sher Gul Khan, a truck driver.

"Osama is still our hero, a hero of Islam whose followers are just waiting for the right moment to strike back," he said.

"By the grace of God, he will teach a lesson to the Americans and Israelis, who, too, are killing our Muslim brothers," Khan added.

Islamic radical Attaur Rehman believes Bin Laden is still the most popular figure in the world.

"Osama's popularity cannot be judged by the selling of posters and T-shirts, he lives in our hearts," he said.

He believes that when the fasting month of Ramadan ends in a few weeks, street protests will resume and Bin Laden's public popularity will be restored.

Whoever challenges America—whether it be Bin Laden or Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein—becomes a hero for Pakistanis as the majority of them bear deep resentment against the United States, said Khalil Qureshi, a lawyer.

"They symbolize hatred against America," he said. ***AFP***

Serge O links 3 more payoffs to military

(From page A1)

tional Police Academy in Silang, Cavite.

She said she had asked her aides, including her senior military assistant Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza, about Osmeña's earlier allegation that Malacañang operatives had arranged a P17-million ransom, but that she turned up blank.

"I've been asking," she said. "Nobody knows as far as I know, so I don't know."

Osmeña had earlier said he would name in a Senate executive session the Malacañang officials who supposedly sought his help in delivering the ransom for Romero.

He had also assailed the Palace for supposedly espousing a no-ransom policy on one hand and arranging for ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf on the other.

Osmeña had also challenged Malacañang to come clean and admit it had a hand in the ransom payment for Romero.

Asked yesterday to comment on this challenge, an annoyed Ms Macapagal said: "Why should I!"

Osmeña yesterday said he might ask his informant to join him at the ongoing Senate inquiry into the alleged collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and the military.

The Senate committee on national defense and security has set the next hearing on Dec. 17, with Osmeña as a new witness.

Regarding Romero's case, Osmeña stood firm on his position that the President knew about the alleged ransom payment and said there was a "strong basis" for his stance.

Reacting to the President's statement Wednesday that it was not his business to save her face on this issue, Osmeña said: "Oh, she has a cute face. Everybody wants to look at her every day."

The senator, who will mark a birthday next week, also said he appreciated the President's advance gift to him—an ashtray—despite the controversy.

Errand boy

In an interview with radio station dzRH, Jesus Dureza, the President's assistant for Mindanao affairs, expressed shock at Osmeña's allegations.

"I'm the government's errand boy in Mindanao," Dureza said. "I can tell you that as far as I know and in all the cases of kidnapping, I have not been informed, I have not known of and I have not handled ransom negotiations."

Dureza also said he had no information about Osmeña's light plane having been commissioned for the delivery of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

"Maybe he was also misinformed, or he got the wrong information," Dureza said. "But as far as the President is concerned, I would like to inform you—because I'm always in touch with her—there's no way she will allow payment of ransom."

Dureza noted that in every kidnapping case, "there are groups who want to mediate to receive the ransom, and I'm sure they will partake of it."

"This is normal," he added.

Dureza admitted that he had been contacted by people demanding a P5-million ransom for kidnapped Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni.

He said he never agreed to negotiate, but did not discount the fact that other groups could have done so.

Earlier, kidnap group leader Faisal Marohombsar said certain Malacañang officials had given him the P5 million for delivery to Pierantoni's abductors.

"Of course they were asking for P5 million," Dureza said, adding that he had a "contact person" working on Pierantoni's case.

"But I told them, 'I'm sorry, I don't talk with anyone when it comes to ransom. But we can talk about other matters,'" he said. "So they asked for medicines. They sent us the list of medicines last night. Of course we'd be able to handle this."

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, dismissed Marohombsar's claim as "another fabrication."

"I think the leader of a kidnap group has the least credibility," Tiglao said. "He has less credibility, I think, than a senator."

The INQUIRER yesterday tried but failed to reach Norberto Gonzales, the President's adviser on special concerns, who was allegedly in contact with Marohombsar.

"He (Gonzales) denies it," Tiglao said.

Threat to integrity

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes accused Osmeña of trying to divide the military with his allegation that it shared in the ransom payment for Romero's release.

Reyes described the allegation in a memorandum as "a serious threat to the integrity of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

"I lament the fact that he is saying the lower ranking officers and our soldiers should not trust their officers," Reyes said in a press briefing. "That's driving a wedge between the (AFP) and its leadership, and that's bad. I don't think that should be expected from a senator."

Reyes reiterated that Osmeña's allegations were "false, without basis, and he cannot prove them."

"So I reiterate my challenge to (Osmeña): Please produce the truth, please substantiate the claim, and we are giving you six months," Reyes said.

If Osmeña is unable to present proof, he should do "the only honorable thing" and resign, Reyes added.

Reyes, however, directed AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to look into Osmeña's claims.

He said the probe should be "transparent and exhaustive" and conducted by an independent body at the General Headquarters.

Asked why he wanted another inquiry, Reyes said he was caught in a bind.

He said he was being assailed for not ordering an investigation, but that if he ordered one, he would be accused of whitewashing the case.

"I'd rather err on the side of ordering the investigation," he explained.

The Association of General and Flag Officers (Agfo) led by retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya issued a statement reiterating support for Reyes and Villanueva.

But it urged the government to initiate another inquiry into "this most serious charge that has greatly undermined the integrity" of the AFP.

On Wednesday, retired Brig. Gen. Manuel Pepino said 70 percent of the Agfo membership would file a criminal complaint against Reyes, Villanueva and Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez for allegedly receiving P5 million from the ransom payment for Romero's release.

But Gidaya said that Pepino's statement was a "gross misrepresentation," and that he was not authorized to speak for Agfo.

Committee report

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo urged the House defense committee to defer the issuance of its report on the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf until Osmeña's claims had been fully investigated.

"The timing of Senator Osmeña's revelations and his motives are only secondary to the central issues he has put forward," Ocampo said in a statement. "The merits of his claims must immediately be looked into and weighed so that appropriate measures can be done to those found to have a hand in this."

Another congressman who asked not to be named earlier told the INQUIRER that the committee was likely to clear the military. "The report will confirm the payment of ransom but not the collusion," said the source, a member of the committee chaired by Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr.

The report is due out next week.

Pichay has refused to comment on the committee findings. But he said he found the testimony of two witnesses to the ransom payments more credible than Romero's flat denials.

He has also expressed disbelief in Osmeña's claims. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Martin P. Marfil and Juliet L. Javellana***

NCA roster a breed apart

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

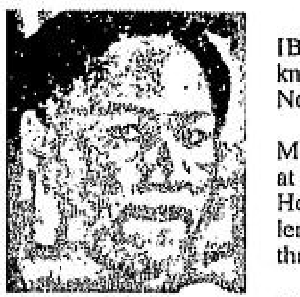
SURE, there are many cockfighting groups promoting the authentic Filipino sport of *sabong*, but the National Cockers Association council is a breed apart: Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, back-to-back Cocker of the Year Narciso "Jun" Santiago, respected lawyer and former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Pampanga's pride Jun Jingco, engineer Pacifico Berin, reigning Cocker of the Year Gerry Fevidal, Rep. Claude Bautista, Louie Cua and Philip Chiongbian of the famous Chiongbian clan.

And its record will speak for itself.

Through the years, the pioneer organization has not only been hosting quality derbies at the world-class Araneta Coliseum, but has been setting aside a substantial share of its earnings from cockfighting events held at the Big Dome to help the less fortunate members of the community, including the funding of scholarships grants to deserving students. For this year alone, the NCA has sent six scholars to Miriam Academy for Computer Science and three others to the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

"Of course, we are happy with the way the NCA is running its affairs," said enthusiastic members of the group. "Aside from being foolproof, the NCA matching is fair and transparent," much-admired cocker-breeder Boy Jiao once stressed. "There is nothing to hide. Our matching is the fairest in the whole world. We do not cheat."

Lewis sues Tyson, WBC



LEWIS

NEW YORK—Lennox Lewis is suing Mike Tyson to prevent him from fighting on Jan. 19 or to have the WBC remove Tyson from the mandatory challenger's position if he does fight.

The suit, which also names the WBC as a defendant, was filed in US District Court in Manhattan on Tuesday.

It contends that such a fight for Tyson could hurt Lewis financially. Tyson and Lewis are expected to fight next spring.

Lewis regained the WBC-IBF heavyweight titles by knocking out Hasim Rahman on Nov. 17.

Tyson is scheduled to fight Mercer next month, probably at Atlantic City, New Jersey. He then is supposed to challenge Lewis in April, although that fight is not yet signed.

In a statement, Tyson said Wednesday that he was "outraged by Lennox's attempt to interfere with my career."

"I stepped aside as the WBC challenger in November to allow the rematch with Rahman," Tyson said. "Lennox makes his own rules only when they suit him."

The WBC mandatory defense was scheduled for November. A federal judge, however, ruled that Rahman, who knocked out Lewis on April 22, must fight Lewis again before he fought anyone else.

The suit contends that the WBC entered into an agreement with Tyson that allows Tyson to engage in a Jan. 19 bout against an opponent other than Lewis, but bars Lewis from fighting anybody before he fights Tyson.

It also is said that the Jan. 19 fight could hurt Lewis monetarily. *AP*

Pasay 4-cock tourney tonight

A WHOPPING cash prize of P300,000 awaits the winners in tonight's special 4-cock derby at Pasay City Cockpit. The derby will start at 7 p.m.

Host Amel Pimentel (Miss Liberty entry) said more than 60 fights are lined up. Required entry fee is P10,000. Another 4-cock derby is slated at PCC on Dec. 14 with Malabon cocker Daday Siochi as derby host.

Slated on Dec. 21 is the much-awaited "Pasko Na Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby" to be hosted by pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Submission of weights is strictly one day before derby. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

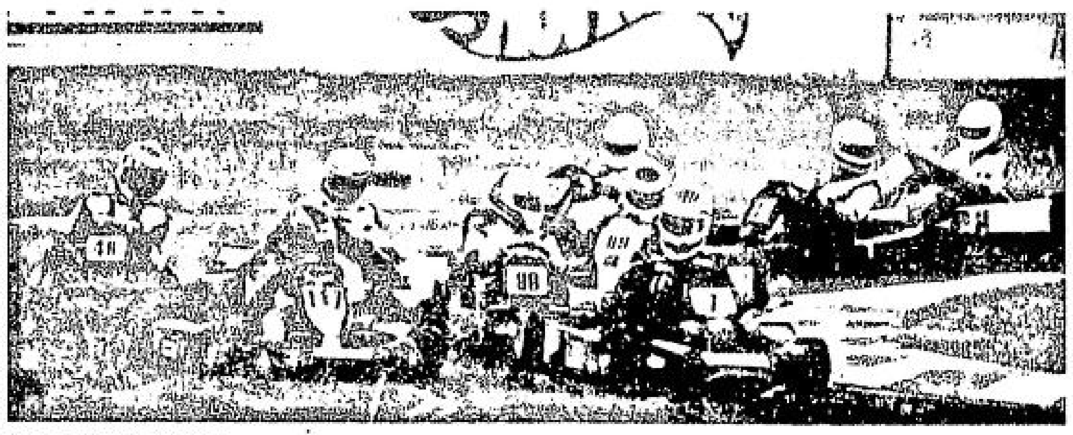
Cavite derby on

THE MAD scramble for cockfighting supremacy continues when the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby championship round sizzles at Cavite Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m. More than 75 fights are scheduled.

At stake in this fund raising sports affair (for the benefit of Philippine Mental Health) is a guaranteed prize of P2 million. Derby hosts are Sen. Ramon Revilla and lawyer Rudy Salud while sponsors are Casino Filipino—Parañaque, Sagupaan Super Feeds and Calf-Manna concentrated ration.

A total of 82 participants joined the event but only 50 survived two days of grueling eliminations, and they will slug it out for the title in today's 3-cock championship round, said pit manager Roger del Rosario.

Meanwhile, Cavite Coliseum also presents the special 4-cock derby on Dec. 10 and 11 with Golden Mike and Bulik Group as hosts. The guaranteed prize is P400,000 while entry fee is P8,800.



TUASON CUP

Jeremy Marquez, the 2001 Rookie Karter of the Year (left), tries to slip past the main pack led by Tyson Sy (No. 117), Pepon Marave (No. 88) and Manuel Sy (No. 7) during the Expert crown competition of the 2nd Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup at the Carmona Circuit Philippines over the weekend. Marquez eventually won. The event was organized by the Tuason Racing Project and presented by Standard Insurance and Magic 89.9 in cooperation with Hanjin Shipping, Carmona Circuit Philippines, Kart Plaza, Demvells Enterprises, Metro Makati Motors Association Inc., Trapik.com, Henry's Restaurant, PIKA and Rallye Magwheels.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA—Minnesota Timberwolves vs Memphis Grizzlies at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA—Georgetown Hoyas vs South Carolina Gamecocks at 1 p.m., Wake Forest Demon Deacons vs Kansas Jayhawks at midnight (r) on ESPN

21st ABC Championship for Men 2001 - Lebanon vs China Final at 4:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Mighty Swift 2. El Magnifico 3. Imus Emperor

Race 2—1. Royal Title 2. Bullish View 3. Mystic Lover

Race 3—1. Houdini 2. Smart Kevin 3. Run Doding Fly

Race 4—1. Color of the Wind 2. Queen of Less 3. Island King

Race 5—1. Gifted Guest 2. Power Pack 3. Dynamite Miss 4. Free Bee

Race 6—1. Millennium Man 2. Sweet Topic 3. Patago 4. D Greatest

Race 7—1. Silver Print 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Witch Craft 4. Fire Task 5. D Barrister

Race 8—1. Aly Sam 2. Celebration 3. Awashincash

Race 9—1. Tanging Ikaw 2. Marginal Note 3. Power Corrupts 4. Regal Reality 5. Ringer Kid 6. Silent Heat

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CAP-Southwoods pulls away in Fil-Am

By Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—CAP-Southwoods employed its usual balanced scoring yesterday to increase its lead to 21 points in the premiere Fil Division of the 52nd Fil-Am Golf Championship.

A steady drizzle did little to derail CAP-Southwoods' relentless pounding of Baguio Country Club, its cause anchored this time by old warrior Jun Jun Plana.

Plana, making up for his no-count 29 Wednesday, fired 37 on the strength of the day's lone sub-par round—a 1-under-par effort despite a wet day at the for-members-only club.

He made three birdies at the par-60, 96-year-old BCC in a big rébound from his 7-over-par Wednesday.

GENE Bondoc of Mizuno-DHL tees off.
JESS YUSON

"*Puwede pa rin pala tayo* (I guess I still have it)," said the fortyish Plana, the oldest of CAP-Southwoods' "Fab Five" seeking a third straight crown.

Together with Angelo Que's 34, Artemio Murakami's 32 and Jerome Delariarte's 30, CAP-Southwoods had a day-effort of 133, 13 points up on chief challenger Mizuno-DHL.

Only Gene Bondoc, the youngest of Mizuno-DHL's hastily formed squad, survived the sunless, damp and cold day, firing a team-leading 34.

His teammates struggled, hobbled and hauled home inconsequential rounds to jeopardize Mizuno-DHL's upset dreams in this nation's oldest team golf championship.

Mizuno-DHL even absorbed a two-point penalty when Jay Bayron made a wrong drop, transforming a precious par into an atrocious pickup for the reigning Uratex champion.

Bayron had 30, Mario Labajo 29 and Marvin Dumandan 27 for 120 as Mizuno-DHL's two-day total of 246 appeared not solid enough to overhaul CAP-Southwoods' 267 with two days to go.

In the controversy-marred Am Division, CAP-Southwoods' Lyndon Barril was disqualified for signing a wrong scorecard in Round 1.

Barril's 38 points at John Hay was nullified, further fueling the already tense atmosphere triggered by the mystery-shrouded disqualification of Jojo Fernando's 36 points for Mizuno-DHL Wednesday.

Juami Rocha, another CAP-Southwoods mainstay in the Am Division, was also being investigated at presstime for a possible rules infraction.

Colonel Dalot reported that Rocha's caddy was doing the scoring yesterday instead of Rocha. Dalot said Rocha's caddy had done it for 17 holes.

Action in the Am Division was halted on account of darkness, stranding Mizuno-DHL's Roy Decendario, Jun Jun Grandeza and Jojo Fernando at John Hay.

Aguinaldo (199) overtook first-day leader St. Lukes-Master Sports (Goody Ignacio 25, Daboy del Mundo 24, Ben Lilican 23 and Francis Calma 23=196) in the lower division battle.

Crime does pay?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—Can a marker not be disqualified also for making a wrong entry, resulting in the disqualification of a player he was marking for?

Yes, but only if the marker admits he deliberately wrote down the wrong score.

There was a decided case on this some years back.

After the marker had admitted his crime, he and the player he was marking for were disqualified.

I cite the above as Jojo Fernando's case hasn't died down two days after it happened.

Jojo's score was annulled Wednesday after he had signed a wrong scorecard—a result of a wrong entry wrote down by his marker, Thirdy Escano.

Thirdy has apologized to Benny Gopez, Mizuno-DHL's leader. He said he accidentally wrote down birdie after Jojo had told him he made par. He said he made an honest mistake.

Jojo was disqualified but not Thirdy.

If the case is pursued, can Thirdy still be disqualified?

Yes. But only if Thirdy admits he deliberately wrote down the wrong score in Jojo's scorecard.

Is Thirdy's apology considered an admission of having knowingly known he had jotted down the wrong score?

No. For it to be called a deliberate act of altering the score of the player you are marking for, you have to say it so. An apology means nothing. If at all, it merely assuages the wounded feelings of the aggrieved person.

The crime's been done neat?

Crime does pay?

For now, Thirdy's off the hook. Safe from prosecution.

What a world.

Lions score again

BOBBY Barnson scored a game-high 30 points as Olivarez College bested St. Benedict College, 102-97, yesterday for its second win in the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament at the Philippine Maritime Institute Gym.

Barnson got support from Melvin Sto. Domingo and Bong de Guzman, who scored 20 and 13, respectively for the Sea Lions.

Olivarez now totes a 2-3 card in the tournament supported by Pagcor, Splash, Mikasa, Pepsi-Cola and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

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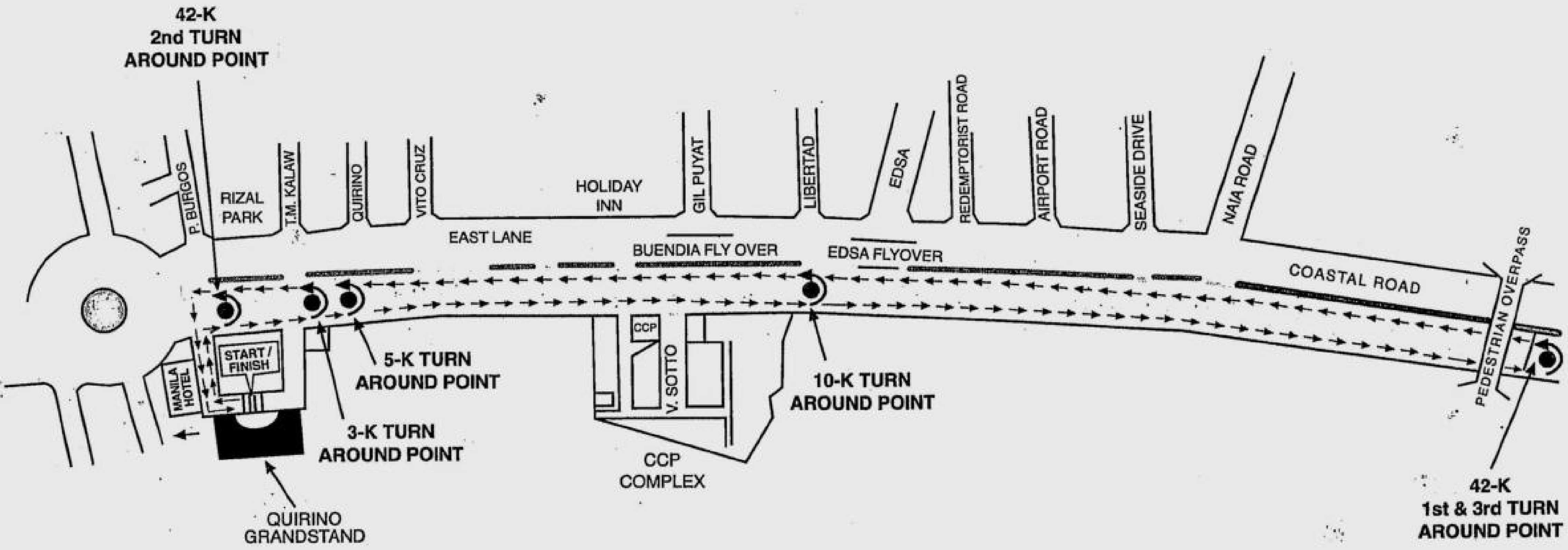
42-K 2nd TURN AROUND POINT
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RIZAL PARK
T.M. KALAW
QUIRINO
VITO CRUZ
HOLIDAY INN
GIL PUYAT
LIBERTAD
EDSA
REDEMPTORIST ROAD
AIRPORT ROAD
SEASIDE DRIVE
NAIA ROAD
EAST LANE
BUENDIA FLY OVER
EDSA FLYOVER
COASTAL ROAD
PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS
MANILA HOTEL
START / FINISH
5-K TURN AROUND POINT
3-K TURN AROUND POINT
CCP
V. SOTTO
CCP COMPLEX
10-K TURN AROUND POINT
QUIRINO GRANDSTAND
42-K 1st & 3rd TURN AROUND POINT

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At the final leg of the **25th National MILO Marathon**, runners will be using this route. Motorists are advised to take alternative roads and observe traffic rules in the areas concerned from **4:00 am to 9:00 am.**

Cantada Sports Center opens

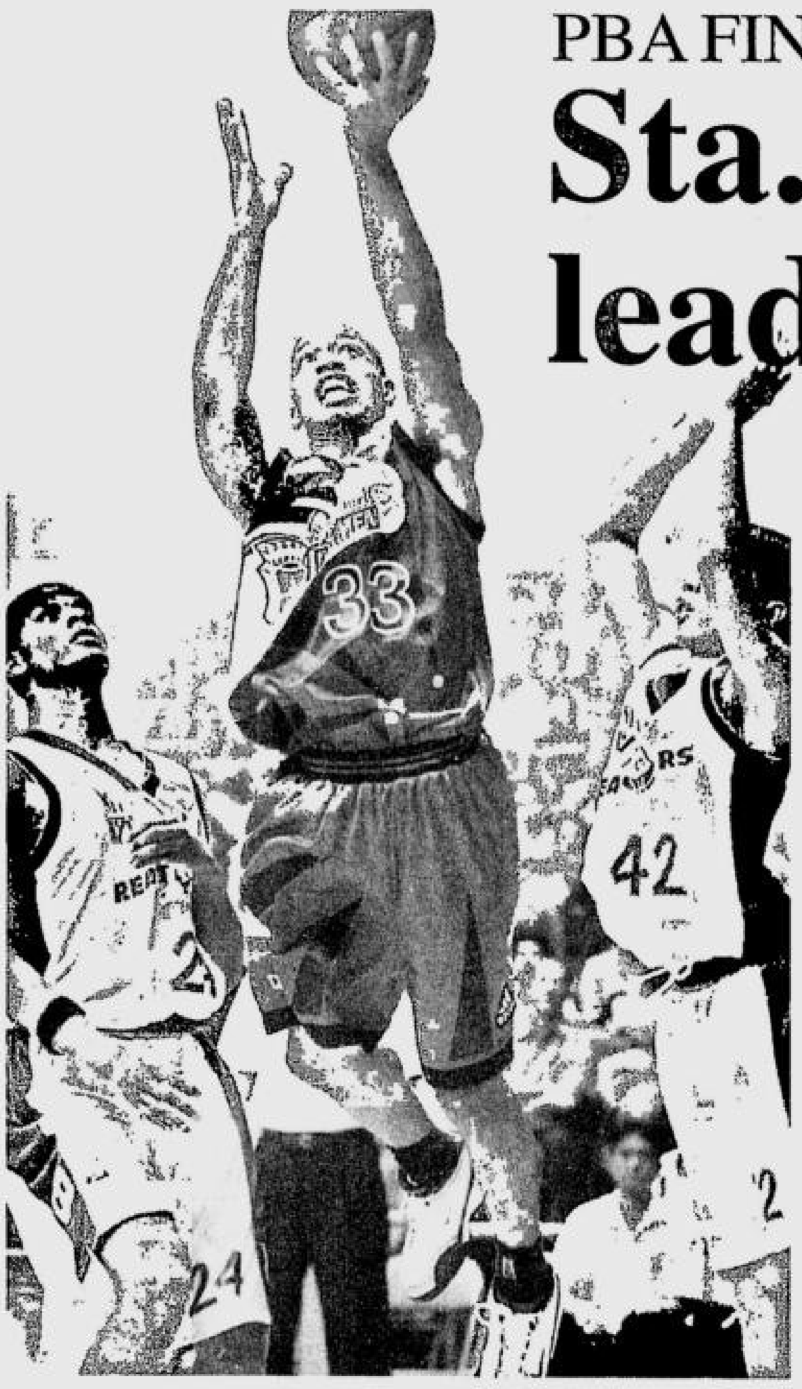
LEADING sports officials and patrons are expected to grace the formal opening of the Cantada Sports Center at 6 tonight in Bagumbayan, Taguig, Metro Manila. Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, the man behind the Center, said among those invited are POC President Celso Dayrit, PSC Chair Carlos Tuason, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, Gualberto Duavit and Ben Abalos.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Anand reaches 5th round

MOSCOW—Defending Fide world champion Viswanathan Anand of India defeated Russia's Alexey Dreev to advance to the fifth round in the FIDE world championship here on Wednesday. But both the second and third seeds were eliminated. Russian GM Peter Svidler ousted second seed Michael Adams of England, while third seed Alexander Morozevich of Russia fell to Ruslan Ponomariev of the Ukraine. At 18, Ponomariev is the youngest survivor on the men's side. *AP*



SMB's Lamont Strothers slices the middle as Sta. Lucia's Damien Owens (left) and Felix Belano look helplessly in Game 1 of their best-of-seven series. The Realtors won, 86-80. ERNIE SARMIENTO

PBA FINALS

Sta. Lucia eyes 2-0 lead vs SMB today

GAME TODAY (Philsports)
7 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel (Game 2)

GAME 1—Sta. Lucia d. San Miguel, 86-80

BY JUNE NAVARRO

STA. Lucia Realty applies some minor adjustments when it shoots for a 2-0 edge against defending champion San Miguel Beer tonight in the Finals of the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

According to Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, the variations will have a striking resemblance during their semifinal encounter against Pop Cola where the Realtors won in five games en route to a best-of-seven title clash against the Beermen.

"Just small adjustments like how you defend against the pick and roll and how you rotate if there's a double team. Things like those," said Black moments after their 86-80 Game 1 victory Wednesday night.

The Realtors, however, hardly need any adjustment at all as they led in almost every department imaginable except, ironically, in rebounding.

The Beermen outrebounded the Realtors, 53-48, with man-mountain Dorian Peña grabbing 17 caroms, 12 of which were offensive boards.

"That's the irony of it. We were aggressive on the offensive end as we got away with a lot of second shots. Unfortunately, we failed to capitalize on it," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico, who is seeking his sixth title in just three seasons.

Lamont Strothers won the battle of imports against Damien Owens, bannering his team with 25 points but couldn't muster enough support from the rest of the Beermen.

Danny Ildefonso went scoreless in the final quarter while Danny Seigle fired blanks at crunchtime that left the task of saving the Beermen from impending trouble on the shoulders of Strothers.

On the other hand, Sta. Lucia's local crew gallantly stepped up, combining for 39 points down the stretch to relieve Owens of his scoring chores.

Paolo Mendoza, Dennis Espino, Marlou Aquino and Gerard Francisco also played big at the defensive end, forcing a lot of miscalculations and turnovers that told heavily on the Beermen.

MBA Game 5 reset Sunday

THE DECIDING Game 5 of the MBA Second Phase Southern Conference title series slated at 5 p.m. today has been moved to Sunday because of the inclement weather brought about by Typhoon Quedan in the Visayas.

Cebuana Lhuillier defeated Negros, 93-85, Wednesday night to level their playoffs at 2-2 at the Cebu City Coliseum and force the rubber match at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

MBA Commissioner Butch Antonio announced the postponement yesterday following the cancellation of flights and non-arrival of telecast equipment.

As a result, the opener of the national finals between Northern Conference champion LBC Batangas and the Southern series winner has also been reset to 5 p.m. Wednesday instead of Sunday at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

LBC Batangas downed Andok's San Juan, 88-83, in Game Four Wednesday to cut short their series at 3-1.

A victory celebration in honor of the Blades was held at the All Star Bar across the Sentrum Wednesday night with MBA chairman Santi Araneta and All Star Bar owner Dino Araneta as hosts.

Mr. And Ms. Lingoy Araneta, chairman of LBC, graced the affair. Also present were Blades director Louie Chuidian and MBA director for marketing and business development Ramon Tuason. *Roy Luarca*

Shark seizes PBL control

BY DENNIS EROA

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink outlasted Blu Detergent, 83-76, in overtime and seized the solo lead last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Chester Tolomia, Gilbert Malabanan and Rysal Castro scored the crucial points as Shark tore Blu apart in the extra five minutes of play en route to its sixth win against two losses. Blu dropped to 5-3.

In the first game, tailender Montaña Jewels survived Ronald Tubid's monstrous game and escaped with a 99-96 overtime victory over Ana Freezers.

The acrobatic Tubid scored a personal-best and conference-high 31 points as Ana dictated the tempo of the match but his efforts went to naught as his teammates collapsed in the dying minutes of the thrilling game.

Aries Dimaunahan buried a three-pointer, while Mark Macapagal and Lou Gatumbato hit crucial free throws as the Jewels recovered from the shock of losing an 87-81 lead in the regulation. Dondon Mendoza forced the extension with a tip-in after a miss by Roland Pascual, 88-88.

The loss dropped Ana to 3-5, while Montaña improved to 2-6. Montaña, thus, avenged its first round loss to Ana on Nov. 27.

Meanwhile, Tolomia leads the MVP statistical rce after first round of action. Ana's Roland Pascual is in third spot, followed by Welcoat's Yancy de Ocampo and Ren Ren Ritualo, respectively.

MONTAÑA 99—Mesina 20, Dimaunahan 19, Macapagal 13, Lao 13, David 10, Gottenbos 10, Misola 7, Gatumbato 6, Allad 1, Lim 0, Zamora 0.

ANA FREEZERS 96—Tubid 31, D. Mendoza 13, Capus 11, Pascual 10, Vilar 10, De Castro 9, Artadi 6, Mendoza 6, Oreta 0, Flores 0, Torres 0.

Quarters: 20-20, 50-40,63-69, 88-88 (reg), 99-96 (OT).

ITF rained out

DUE to the inclement weather, yesterday's matches in the quarterfinal round of the Tru-flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 2 tennis tournament have been cancelled.

Competitions resume today (Dec. 7) starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

NBA results

Boston 95, Denver 80; San Antonio 120, Atlanta 112; Orlando 102, Chicago 74; Detroit 95, Seattle 91; New Jersey 106, Phoenix 87; L.A. Lakers 98, Dallas 94; Golden State 93, Philadelphia 87. *AP*

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 07 912-8983

Manila tankers reign supreme

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BACOLOD CITY — Manila hauled eight more golds from the pool yesterday to formally retain the swimming title and make a serious bid for the overall plum in the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy at the Panaad Sports Complex.

Six-year-olds Gian Berino and Kimberly Uy were at the forefront of Manila's assault, capturing three gold medals each to give Manila 17 of the 69 gold medals at stake. Laguna won four golds, while host Bacolod City grabbed two yesterday to take joint second place with 10 golds apiece.

Berino is the son of Tagami, Leyte mayor Dario and former Manila councilor Suzie.

Manila now has 20 golds, 12 silvers and nine bronzes, closing in on the overall title with just a day left in the Games.

Two-time overall champion Laguna, hoping to gain in gymnastics and track and field late yesterday and today, is at third place with a 10-4-9 tally, behind Bacolod City which has 10-7-8.

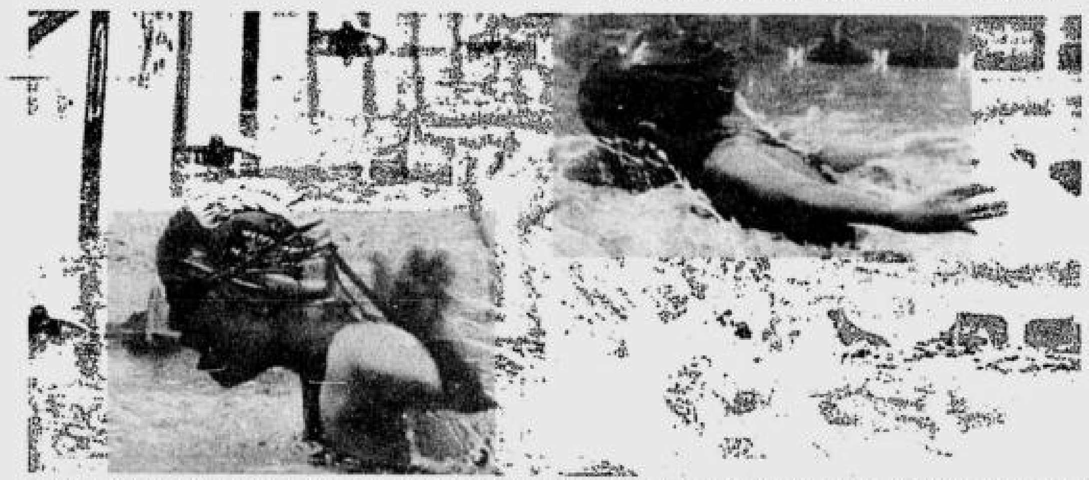
But things are expected to change when taekwondo and gymnastics are concluded since host Bacolod City decided to raise the gold medals at stake in taekwondo from 12 to 36. Laguna is a force to reckon with in gymnastics.

Manila even extended its winning ways in chess when Aaron Krishna Rivas scored 5.5 points after six rounds to capture the gold (boys 12 years). Also taking the golds in chess were Bacolod City's Rayelynn Posadas (girls 12-under), Angeles City's Kimberly Cunanan (girls 10-under) and Bulacan's Karl Ochoa (boys 10-under).

Sprints princess Rorydel Camong made it three in a row on the track after copping the girls 50m, thereby handing Bukidnon its three golds already. Jose Carrera of Pangasinan, who took the boys side of the 100m, yesterday ruled the 50m dash.

Some track and field events in the afternoon were either delayed or cancelled due to rains as typhoon Quedan continued to lash this city. Morning events, though, saw Venny Mahilum of Negros Occidental and Ernie Opiana of Albay taking the golds in the girls and boys 400m, respectively. Ariel Dichos of Davao del Sur prevailed in 12-under high jump.

Winning the other golds in the pool for Manila were Ma. Anna Arabejo, who took her second gold by also winning the 100m backstroke for girls 11-12, Maxim Quilala in 100back (boys 9-10), Carmina Quilala in 100m back (girls 7-8), Judith Elizalde Cruz in 50m butterfly (girls 6-under) and another double gold winner Jose Baylon in 50m butterfly (boys 7-8).



GLADYS Pascual of Rizal (left) edges Carmina Quilala of Manila to win the girls' 50m butterfly gold medal in the Batang Pinoy Games in Bacolod City ROMY HOMILLADA

Agabao tops Tuason Cup; Marquez, Sy win

CARMONA, Cavite—Batsy Agabao got the needed breaks to capture the Novice crown of the 2nd Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup Karting championship at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

The third and final heat of the event was organized by the Tuason Racing Project Racing Team and presented by Standard Insurance and Magic 89.9 in cooperation with Hanjin Shipping, Carmona Circuit Philippines, Kart Plaza, Demvells Enterprises, Metro Makati Motors Association Inc., Trapik.com, Henry's Restaurant, Pika and Rallye Magwheels.

Agabao, who bagged the top prize of P30,000, clocked 37:29.831 with the fastest laptime of 49.844 seconds on the 10th lap.

Justin Neri finished second with 37:49.902 while mark Bumgarner took third place with 37:52.842.

Archie Rubio ended fourth with 37:52.964, while Reynaldo Panaligan settled for fifth with 37:53.077.

Sharing the limelight were Jeremy Marquez, who bagged the 2001 Rookie of the Year award after ruling the Expert Division, and Tyson Sy, who prevailed in the Cadet Class.

Juanitas, Yap prevail

INTERMEDIATE rider Tony Juanitas, American Hardware owner Joey Almeda and Tarlac bet Christian Yap topped the MP Turbo Speedfest 2001 motocross races last weekend at the Subic Motocross Track.

Juanitas' feat did not come easy as he had to engage the more seasoned Almeda in exciting battles through all motos of the two classes they competed in. Almeda, who also excels in saloon racing also, surprised many by racing closely against Juanitas despite a long lay-off from competitive motocross events.

Yap took the Beginners' Class and third place in the novice and intermediate classes.

Speedfest 2001 is a four-leg multi-motorsport event held in cooperation with the SBMA under the auspices of Chair Felicito Payumo. The event is sponsored by Zed, Gulf Oil, BLTBCo, Gatorade, Daye Motorcycles, Timex Watches, Gandour Candies, Universal Motors Corp., Francisco Motors Corp., SMA Fuels Inc., Pepsi, the Subic LeMans Kart Track, American Hardware & the SVI/Subic International Raceway.

Veteran keglers sparkle

VETERAN duckpin bowlers Remy Princesa of D'Friendly and Gerry Ancheta of NSBA captured the men's and ladies' singles title in the recent National Open championships at the Puyat lanes in Manuela Starmall.

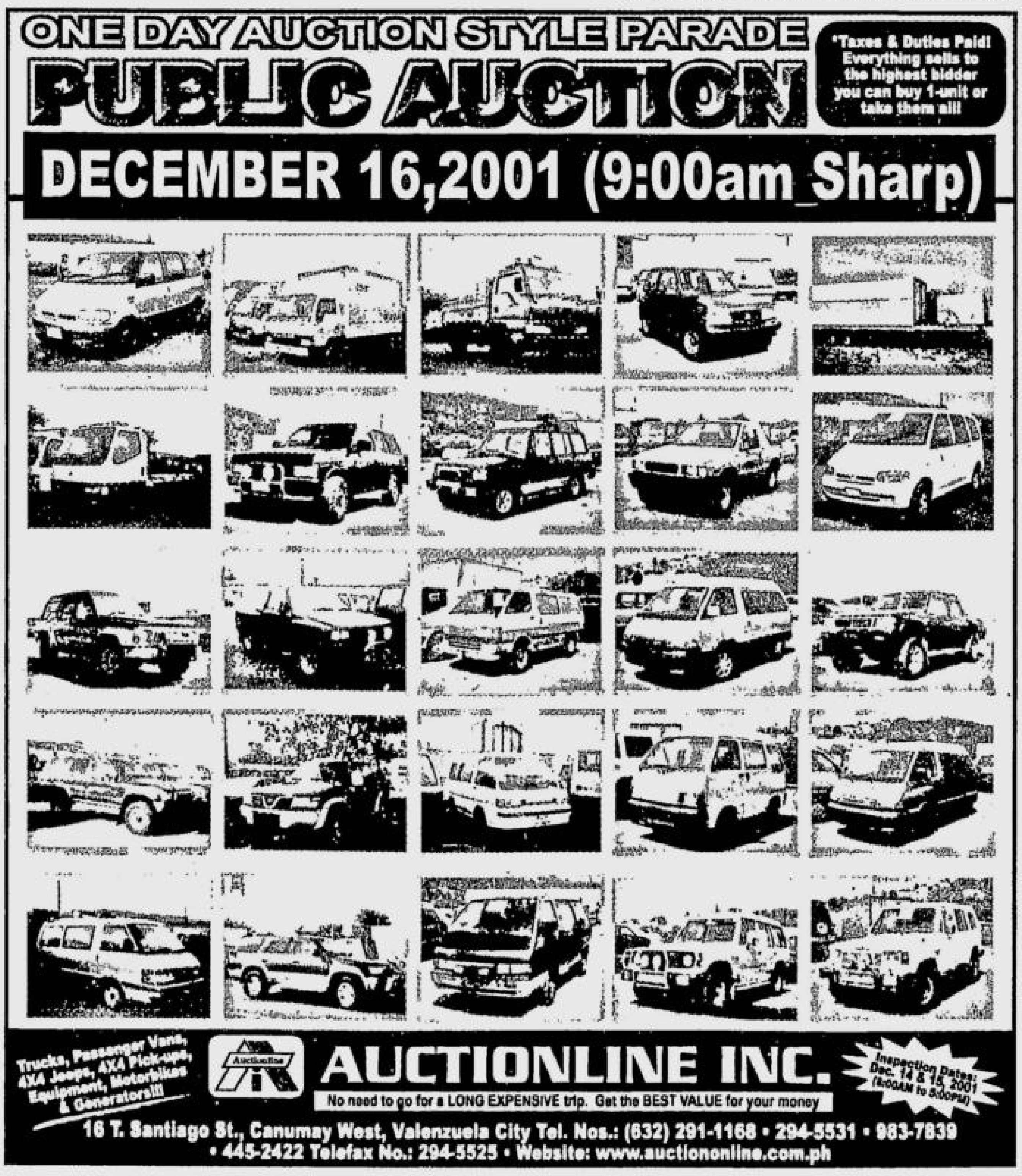
Princesa beat Ruby Villamil, 255-223, while Ancheta tripped Edwin Cruz, 197-183, in the finals.

Villamil and Cruz earned title shots by ousting Enock de Sagun, 125-110, and willy Mahilum, 108-105, respectively, at the start of the stepladder finals.

Ronnie Evangelista and Beth Pakalinawan ruled the class C singles event. Evangelista toppled Buddy Salazar, 226-210, while Pagkalinawan routed Beth Manosca, 215,-174.

Soda-Rends and PDBA-Pasig Strikers took the men's and ladies' singles crowns, respectively. Soda-Rends upset top qualifier Cardba-Recto, 325-299, while PDBA-Pasig Strikes whipped BDBA-Batangas, 375-312.

Engineer Enock de Sagun of Batangas was named the tourney's most valuable player for sharing the mixed doubles crown, finishing third in singles and propelling her team to second place.



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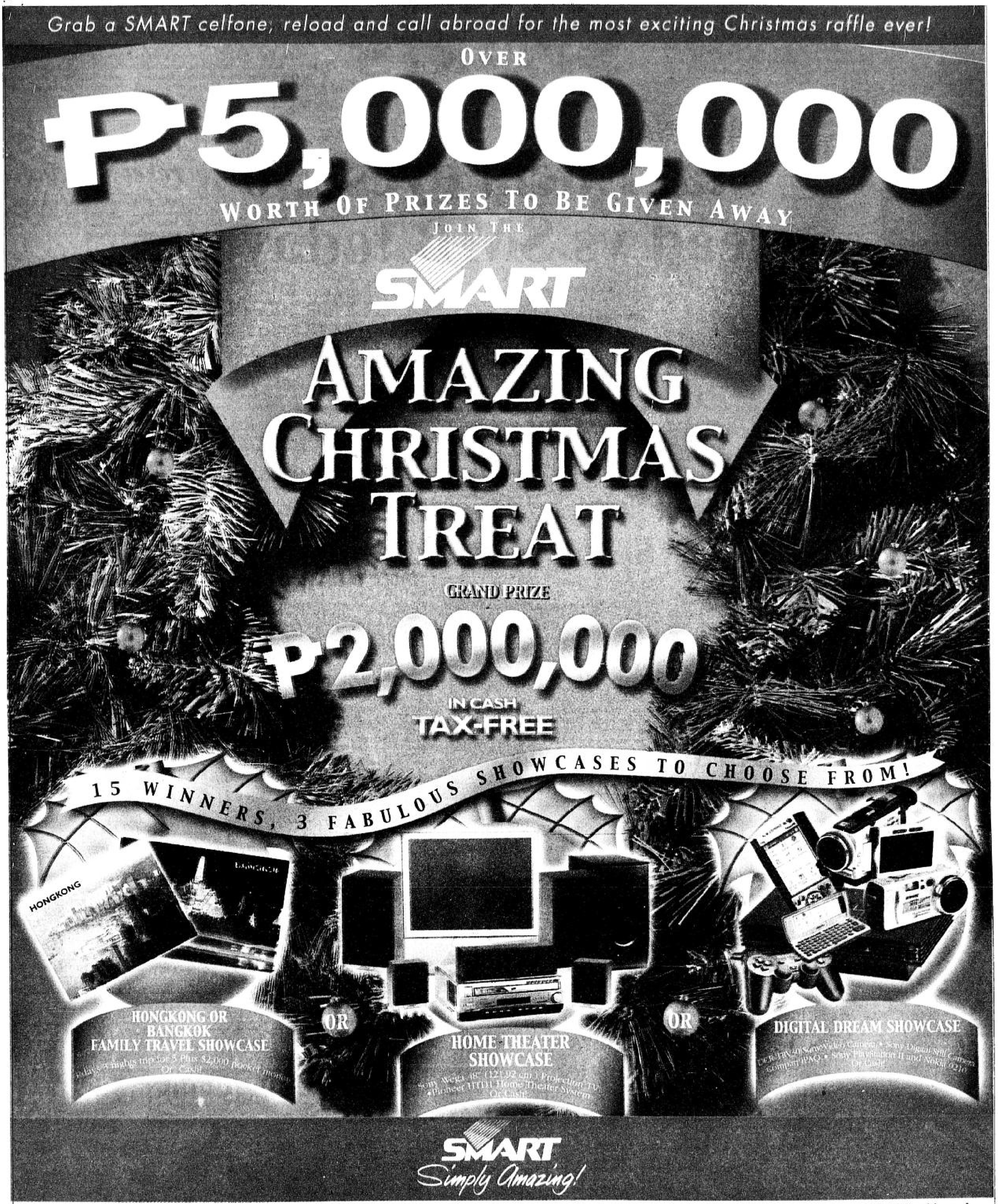
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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ, Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged ₱2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

- Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries.

Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

- Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.
- All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211,
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is ₱2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every ₱250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	80	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

- For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of ₱2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

•Via Activation

- Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:*

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	Nov. 1 -30, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	Dec. 1-31, 2001 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF ₱2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1:	Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.
Showcase 2:	Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still Camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)
Showcase 3:	Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given ₱175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means;
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

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Vandolph family apologizes to dead girlfriend's relatives

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
AND LEAH SALTERIO

"WE offer our apologies for whatever harm Vandolph had brought to her and her family. It was an accident and nobody wanted it to happen."

Vandolph Quizon's stepfather, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, on behalf of the young actor's family, yesterday apologized to the family of Vandolph's girlfriend, who died Tuesday without waking from a coma following a road accident last Nov. 17.

Vandolph and his girlfriend, Desiree Raquiza, both 17, were injured when the van he was driving collided with a truck in Pangasinan while they were on their way to Baguio City.

Vandolph went through 12 hours of surgery the morning after the accident. Raquiza was pronounced clinically dead a day later.

Marquez appealed for understanding from the Raquiza family amid speculation that Vandolph could be held liable for the accident that led to his girlfriend's death.

The young actor reportedly did not have a license while he was driving Marquez's Ford F-150 when they met the accident, transport officials said.

Marquez said what Vandolph and his girlfriend "Ishie" supposedly did—go to the province without the consent of their parents—was normal for teenagers like them.

"When you're 17, you sometimes follow your heart," Marquez said. "It's sad to lose a daughter. But things happen for a reason. Perhaps God wants to show us something."

Marquez said he and his family

VANDOLPH/ A26

FRANCISCO ERIK ARAZAS

Cinco suspect surfaces A26

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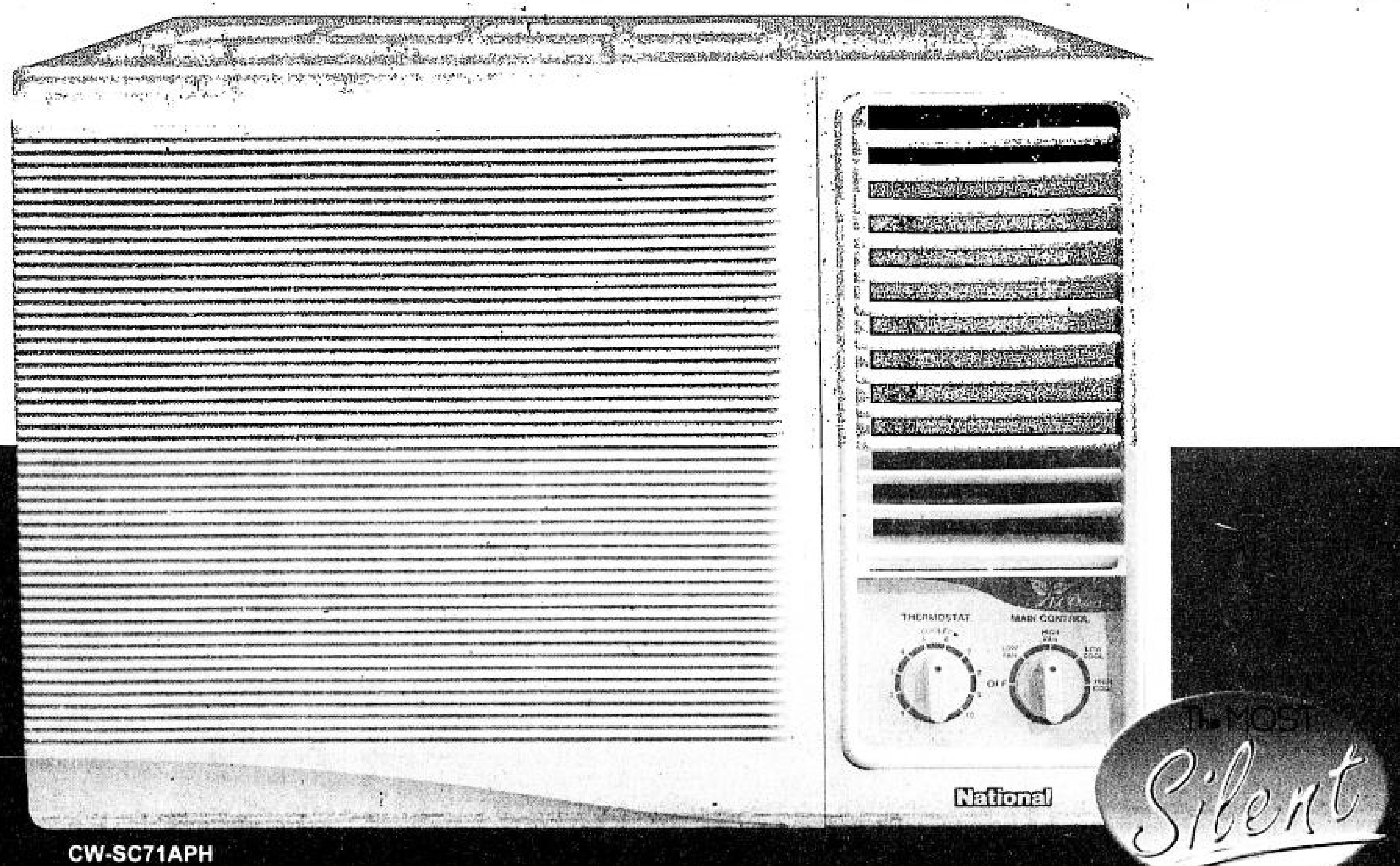

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Cinco suspect surfaces

By Philip C. Tubeza and Blanche S. Rivera

THE SUSPECTED gunman in the killing of Commission on Elections (Comelec) director Velma Cinco yesterday turned up at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) after authorities failed to arrest him last week.

Mario V. Francisco, 33, driver of Cinco's predecessor Angelina Matibag, went to the NBI together with his lawyer Faustino F. Tugade.

Francisco, of Las Piñas, denied involvement in Cinco's murder. He said he was in Matibag's home in BF Resort Village Las Piñas the whole of Nov. 20, when Cinco was ambushed and shot dead.

"I was doing some gardening in Ms Matibag's home on the hour Cinco was killed," Francisco told reporters.

He said he has five witnesses, including Matibag, who could prove he was in Las Piñas on the day of Cinco's murder.

"I was surprised when my name was linked to the crime. I know nothing about it," Francisco said.

He said he has been working for Matibag since he was 13.

But he said he was willing to give a sworn statement, surrender his gun, and undergo a polygraph test at the NBI.

A witness earlier identified Francisco as one of two armed men he saw at a gas station at the corner of Pedro Gil and Tejeron streets in Sta. Ana a few minutes before Cinco was murdered.

Francisco also denied that retired Air Force Col. Ernesto Matibag, the former commissioner's brother, gave him a mission order and a 9 mm cal. pistol. Police allegedly found a mission order from Col. Matibag in Francisco's home.

Francisco said he bought the pistol from Twin Pines gun store on July 26, 2000 and he had a license and a permit to carry.

Police found four 9 mm spent shells at the scene of the ambush.

Francisco said he inadvertently found two mission orders "signed by Col. Matibag" and just decided to keep them out of curiosity. The orders were allegedly meant for no one and no civilian agents were named recipients in the orders.

But Francisco said he could not remember when and where he found the mission orders.

Francisco's lawyer Tugade said the two other suspects, Ricardo Tumambing and Rodolfo Fortich, were also set to appear yesterday after they received subpoenas. He said Fortich worked for Comelec commissioner Luzviminda Tangcangco while Tumambing and Francisco worked for Matibag.

Francisco also denied knowing about the quarrel between Matibag and Cinco, but he admitted that he knew Conrado Robles.

Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas, was arrested and charged with murder and frustrated murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Cinco's sister, Marian S. Jayme, identified Robles as one of the men who ambushed and shot dead her sister. Jayme was on board the car that Cinco was driving when she was killed.

Also yesterday, Matibag asked for the transfer of the Cinco murder investigation to "any other investigating body" because the NBI was "fabricating evidence" against her.

She said "higher powers" in the Comelec were dictating the direction of the NBI investigation to pin her down as the one who ordered the killing of Cinco.

Matibag made the appeal even as she refused to appear before the NBI until all other suspects— all of whom are associated with her—have given their testimony.

"If I see that the investigation is going well, I may go there," she told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

But she said she would wait for the official invitation to her.

"Somebody is directing the investigation against us," she said. "Look at the people they're picking up. They're all my aides and friends who are innocent."

Matibag, who is allied with the camp of Commissioner Tancangco, said Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo likely had a hand in the direction of the NBI inquiry.

She said Benipayo had insinuated even before the investigation that she had an ax to grind against Cinco.

Matibag added that the NBI had been harassing her a month before Cinco's death, with agents looking into Benipayo's complaints of her "unexplained wealth."

She said NBI officer in charge for the National Capital Region Romualdo Asis even went to Batangas to check with the registry of deeds the titles to her property in the province.

She denied that her brother, Col. Ernesto Matibag of the Department of National Defense, had issued a mission order to Robles.

Matibag said her brother was not authorized to facilitate missions or issue gun licenses or orders. She said Robles was observing his mother's death anniversary in his hometown in Batangas when Cinco was killed.

Matibag said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, or even the Western Police District would do a better job with the inquiry than the NBI.

"I will bring this to a higher level," she said. "The NBI has connections with the higher-ups. "The evidence is all fabricated. I'm very sure the papers they have are fake. They can never produce evidence against me because I didn't do it."

Parañaque to auction off Naia

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PARAÑAQUE City government is set to auction off to the public the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after it allegedly failed to settle P650 million in land taxes.

Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday said the auction would be conducted anytime before Christmas after the third publication of the notice for auction.

"It's over," he said. "They failed to pay land taxes so it's time to hold an auction."

He said that the local government would buy it based on its current market value and take over in case the airport would not be bought during the auction. Parañaque would then rent out the property to airport officials, he added.

Marquez said he had already ordered his men to proceed with the auction after Naia supposedly refused to settle its land taxes with Parañaque since 1992.

Airport officials maintained that they have nothing to settle with the city government since they have already been remitting 20 percent of their operational income to the national treasury.

"We don't care about their contribution to the national treasury," the mayor said. "What we're after is the land taxes that they've been refusing to settle."

The mayor had previously pointed out that Naia had already paid about P30 million in taxes in 1996.

The move, he had claimed, only proved that airport officials recognized their unsettled land tax with the city government.

Townhomes not collapsing–Cityland

By Nelson F. Flores

THE CITYLAND Development Corp. yesterday denied that some of their townhouses in Pasig City were in danger of collapsing like the homes in Antipolo's Cherry Hills subdivision.

Also yesterday, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Michael Defensor ordered the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to conduct a motu propio investigation of the townhouse structure.

Cityland said it commissioned the Trevi Foundation Specialists Inc., a foundation and sub-soil expert, when it developed the project and its findings showed that the townhouse units were built on solid foundation.

But Defensor said they could not just rely on the developer's report.

Cityland blamed local residents for the severe erosion that affected some of the topsoil covering the adobe base of the townhouses.

Engineer Eden Go, assistant to Cityland president Andrew Liuson, said they do not know the basis of the order to vacate issued earlier by Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio.

Go said the place affected by the deterioration is in a vacant area and far from the units that were condemned by Eusebio.

Eusebio last week issued notices to vacate to tenants of Cityland Townhouse Pasig after government engineers discovered that the soil foundation of at least 37 townhouse units was already severely eroded.

Eusebio told the INQUIRER that at least 37 units of the Cityland Townhouse in Barangay Oranbo should be vacated until the developer has solved the problem.

Eusebio said the only thing preventing the total collapse of the structures is a retaining wall, which is now severely damaged.

She said the Cityland Townhouse was built in the early 1980s on the edge of a cliff near the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra).

But Chato Perez, Cityland assistant vice president for public information, said the failure of the Cityland Townhouses Inc., the association of unit owners at Cityland Townhouse Pasig, to take appropriate maintenance measures resulted in the deterioration of the topsoil, which has started to trickle down on a vacant lot of Valle Verde I.

"The negligence of the association is the main cause of whatever superficial damage and deterioration has taken place," Perez stressed.

She said the association should rehabilitate the clay cover and the drainage system along Block 6 and prevent the open spaces from being water clogged. She said that vegetation growth should be prevented along the adobe walls.

Vandolph family apologizes . . .

(From page A25)

would accept whatever action the Raquizas would take with regard to their daughter's death.

The mayor added he would help shoulder the medical expenses of the four other people who were wounded in the vehicular accident.

He said members of Vandolph's family still are not sure how to break the news of Ishie's death to Vandolph once he has recovered.

"Vandolph is very emotional," Marquez said. "He loves Desiree so much and we know he can't easily accept her death. But I can't lie to him."

Wednesday night, members of the Quizon family, led by Vandolph's father Dolphy, were at Ishie's wake at the Holy Trinity Chapels along Sucat Road in Parañaque. Dolphy's partner, Zsa Zsa Padilla, was there, too.

"We are all devastated by this tragedy," said Vandolph's half-brother, actor Jeffrey Quizon, who spoke in behalf of the family. "We were still hoping for a miracle for Ishie, but I guess what happened was God's will. God probably needed an angel and He felt Ishie was the most qualified one that's why He took her."

Jeffrey and his other siblings have been taking turns watching over Vandolph at the ICU of the Makati Medical Center.

"We want to be there when he opens his eyes again," Jeffrey said. "We are still clueless about how to tell him about Ishie's death, but we have been praying that he can handle the truth when he wakes up.

"We want to give Ishie's family every support they need. It's harder for their family to accept her death. It's not easy to lose a loved one."

He confirmed that his father is extending financial support to the Raquizas.

Dolphy reportedly shouldered Ishie's hospital bills at the MMC as well as the expenses for her funeral.

"Ishie's family didn't really ask for any financial support," Jeffrey said. "My dad offered to help."

He said their other concern is the health of Dolphy and Vandolph's mother, actress Alma Moreno who is suffering from multiple sclerosis.

"We have to think about them because they're also sick," Jeffrey said. "This tragedy has caused them too much stress. They worry a lot about Vandolph."

Ishie's coffin is flanked by huge wreaths from Dolphy and Zsa Zsa and from Marquez and Moreno.

Moreno said Vandolph is showing vital improvements. Yesterday, his respirator was removed and he was breathing on his own, she said.

Vandolph also underwent therapeutic ultrasound. "That's needed to soften his muscles so they can be easily exercised," she said. "Being in bed for more than two weeks stiffened his muscles so he needs therapy."

She said the machine used for the therapy makes Vandolph wince in pain, even when he remains unconscious. "But I keep telling him, 'Vandolph kaya mo yan'," she said. "His dad also tells him, '*Di ba ikaw si* Superman? *Kaya mo 'yan*'."

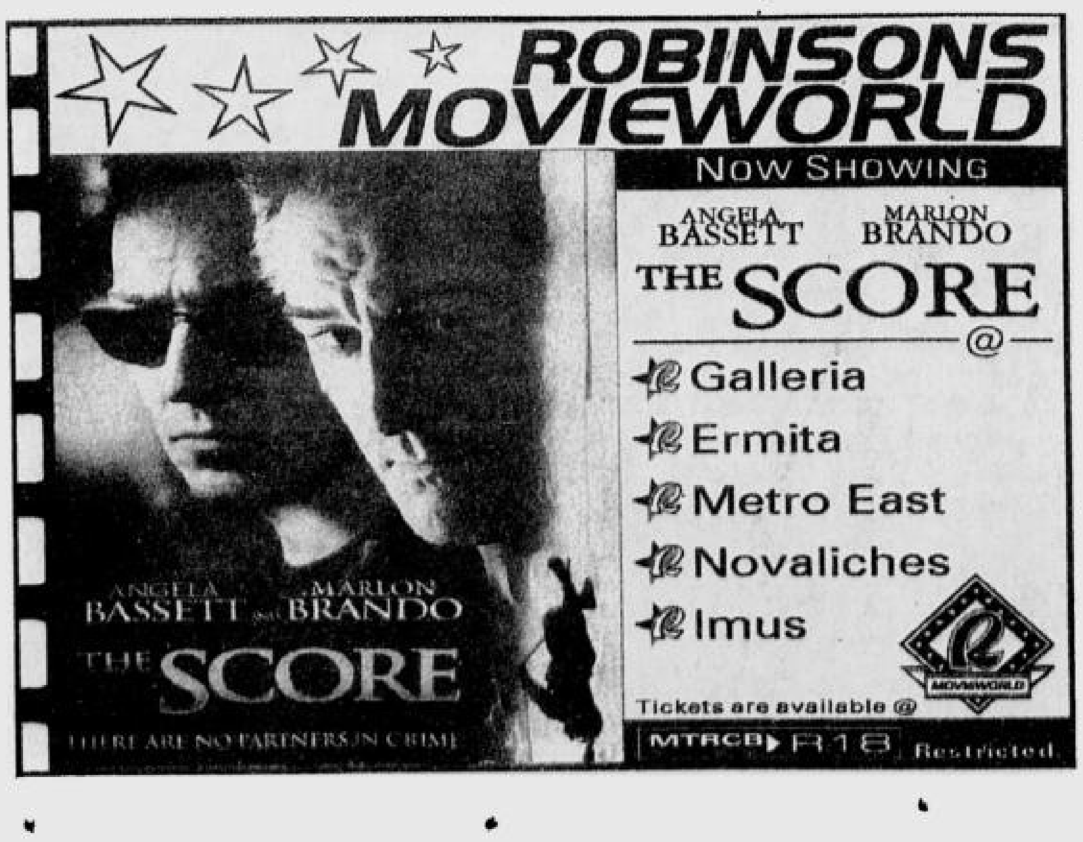
RAQUIZA

Firecrackers set off fire; 1 killed

A 47-YEAR-OLD man was killed and P3.6 million worth of property went up in smoke when two fires hit Binondo and Sta. Cruz in Manila on Wednesday.

One of the fires, which lasted for nearly 12 hours, began after an Isuzu Elf truck (TTZ-678) full of firecrackers exploded at the corner of Sto. Cristo Street and C. M. Recto Avenue at 5:34 p.m. Wednesday, said arson investigator SFO3 Ruben Zagala.

Ramon See, 47, was killed in the fire on Sto. Cristo Street. The fire also burned down stalls along Sto. Cristo, Zagala said. While firemen were busy putting out the blaze in Divisoria, a second fire broke out at an apartment in Sta. Cruz. An old man, identified only as *Lolo* Dalman, suffered burns. ***Philip C. Tubeza***



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Binondo store owner shot dead by robbers

BUSINESSWOMAN Judy Chua Go, 36, was killed by four robbers who shot her in the head in her store in Binondo, Manila late Wednesday afternoon. Her helper Marie Dino, 21, was injured.

Go died from a single gunshot wound in the head, the Western Police District homicide section reported yesterday.

Investigators said the killing happened around 7:30 p.m. inside Go's Fukume General Merchandise store on C.M. Recto Avenue in Binondo. The four suspects barged into the store and announced the holdup but Go and Dino tried to fight them off, police said.

When Go refused to let go of the bag which contained the store's earnings, one of the robbers shot her in the head. Dino was hit in the stomach and shoulder, police said. ***Philip c. Tubeza***

Mass for Pasion

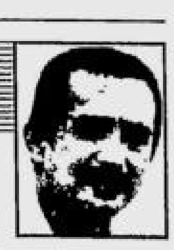
A MASS will be said at the Good Shepherd Convent across from PSBA on Katipunan, Quezon City on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. to commemorate the first death anniversary of Sister Rufina Pasion.

The gathering will also serve as an occasion for the reunion of Section 1 of Class 1951 of Torres High School of which Sister Rufina was a member. Details may be obtained from Marites Pasion at Tel. Nos. 941-8488, 681-1639 and 645-2966.

Keeping the enemy in mind

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



UNLIKE what was done in the previous Asiad, the key to the formation of the RP national basketball team should be guided by one foolproof principle: Better team, not better players.

It will, indeed, take more than just one formula for the Philippines to succeed in next year's Asian Games cage tournament. But here are some sound pointers from Teddy Reynoso, a basketball scholar of Bulacan:

"I couldn't agree more on the importance of picking the right coach to select and lead the national team to the 2002 Pusan Asian Games basketball tournament.

"Indeed, if we go by experience dating back to the pre-PBA days, the choice of the coach is as important as, if not more so than, the selection of the players to comprise the national quintet to a major international joust as the Asiad.

"Including the first PBA-led team coached by now Senator Robert Jaworski, which won the silver in the 1990 Beijing AG, the average placing that has been attained by our all-pro squads in the last three staging of the Asiads only approximated the last best finish achieved by an all-amateur team mentored by Joe Lipa in the 1986 Seoul AG, which is third place.

"This average third-place finish by our three previous all-pro squads does not speak well of the PBA considering the relatively immense talent and resources at its disposal compared to those of the BAP-sponsored national teams to the quadrennial event.

* * *

"The choice of the coach may have more to do with this disappointing showing thus far.

"Lipa took the coaching chore for the Seoul AG almost on a few months' notice with the sudden departure to the US of then most successful amateur mentor Ron Jacobs following the 1986 Edsa Revolution. And he had to hastily form a team made up largely of collegiate standouts with the core of powerhouse NCC team staying away from tryouts and 'FilAm' reinforcements Dennis Still and Jeffrey Moore flying the coop. Yet, Lipa piloted the team to that 3rd place finish, the best since 1962, which could have even been at least 2nd if not for a dubious charging foul called against Allan Caidic in the cross-over semifinal game versus host South Korea.

"Jaworski took the best possible players he thought he could cull from the PBA but only came away with the silver in Beijing. Which could well have been bronze had we run into the Sokors in the semis like what happened in Seoul.

'Norman Black chose the core of his All-Filipino champion SMC team to spearhead the nationals to the 1994 Hiroshima AG but could not even beat Japan while losing miserably to China and Sokor.

"Tim Cone was given a free hand to choose the players who would comprise what was then bruited about as the strongest ever all-pro selection but his centennial team fell prey, as usual, to the Chinese and the Sokors and was given the scare by the newcomer Kazakhs.

* * *

"What distinguished Lipa, and Jacobs before him, from these past three PBA coaches who had relatively better material and resources at their disposal and yet still fell short of expectations?

"Both Lipa and Jacobs built their teams with the enemy in mind. Joe and Jacobs first thoroughly scouted and studied the opposition—their style of play, their strength and weaknesses—then proceeded to form the team with players who they believe could execute the plays that would match the enemy's both on the offensive and defensive ends. Hence, they came prepared to deal with the opposition.

"The past three PBA coaches, given the blanket authority, concentrated on building their own strength it seems without much consideration to the enemy's own strategies and materials. Hence, they came without much knowledge about how to deal with the enemy's offensive and defensive ploys.

"It's therefore to be expected that the coach the PBA has picked has more than ample knowledge of our stints in the Asiad particularly in the past decade.

"A word of caution: We must not also expect (too much) the talented FilAms in the national team to spell the big difference in our forthcoming Asiad campaign. The likes of Still and Moore may have inspired awe and fear in the hearts of the Chinese and Sokors back in the '80s but this may no longer be the case now, owing to the fact that China, Korea, Japan, and even countries in the Mid-East, have grown used to playing against high-caliber Caucasians and Blacks in international tournaments.

That's what frequent exposure to top-flight international competitions can do that importing American reinforcements in the PBA has consistently failed to do to raise the quality of local basketball."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, December 7, 2001
1st Week of Advent

1st Reading:	**Is 29:17-24**
Gospel:	**Mt 9:27-31**

As Jesus moved on from Capernaum, two blind men followed him, shouting, "Son of David, help us!" When he was about to enter the house, the blind men caught up with him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do what you want?" They answered, "Yes, sir!"

Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "As you have believed, so let it be." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus gave them a stern warning, "Be careful and let no one know about this." But as soon as they went away, they spread the news about him through the whole area.

Commentary

At least those blind people had their eyes opened. If this happened to us, "in accordance with our faith," what would become of us? It is a risk we have to take. We know our faith is not so strong. That is why we also end up accomplishing very little in our lives. Faith is the moving force of life. It is the horizon that constantly prods us to overcome our limitations. If we find this horizon at the turn of the corner, then that will be the final destination of our journey. Jesus invites us to have a greater horizon, to trust far beyond our capabilities. Then, Jesus will perform the miracle "in accordance with our faith."

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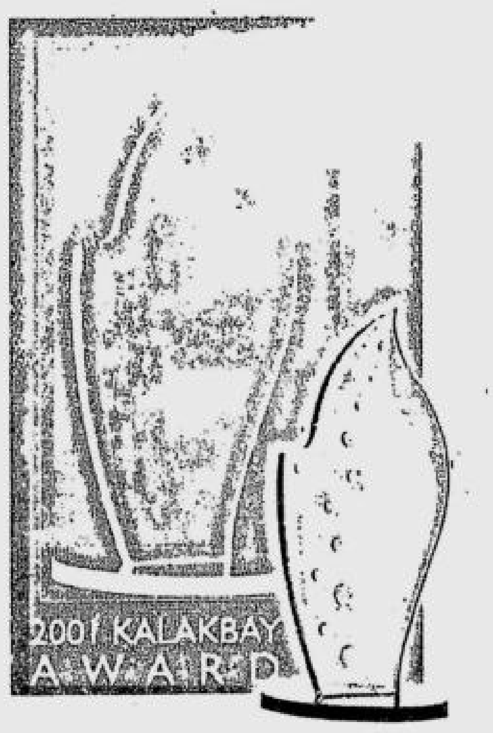
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—General rule that only questions of law may be raised in a petition for review; exceptions— While, as a general rule, only questions of law may be raised in a petition for review under Rule 45 of the Rules of Court, review may nevertheless be granted under certain exceptions; namely: (a) when the conclusion is a finding grounded entirely on speculation, surmises, or conjectures; (b) when the inference made is manifestly mistaken, absurd, or impossible; (c) where there is a grave abuse of discretion; (d) when the judgment is based on a misapprehension of facts; (e) when the findings of fact are conflicting; (f) when the Court of Appeals, in making its findings, went beyond the issue of the case and the same is contrary to the admissions of both appellant and appellee; (g) when the findings of the Court of Appeals are contrary to those of the trial courts; (h) when the findings of fact are conclusions without citation of specific evidence on which they are based; (i) when the facts set forth in the petition as well as in the petitioner's main and reply briefs are not disputed by the respondents; (j) when the finding of fact of the Court of Appeals is premised on the supposed absence of evidence but is contradicted by the evidence on record; and (k) when the Court of Appeals manifestly overlooked certain relevant facts not disputed by the parties and which, if properly considered, would justify a different conclusion. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Martinez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 123547, May 21, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera



2001 KALAKBAY AWARDS

KASAMA SA LAKBAY, KAUNLARAN NG BAYAN

MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to this year's recipients of the **2001 Kasama sa Lakbay, Kaunlaran ng Bayan (KALAKBAY) Awards** and to the *Department of Tourism* and the *Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation* for spearheading this auspicious event.

The KALAKBAY Awards gives due recognition to outstanding local and international corporate entities and individuals that have excelled in management performance and tourism service. They are those who have made significant contributions to the growth of the industry and to the prestige of the institutions they represent. Today, the tourism industry does not celebrate alone. Our entire nation celebrates for an industry whose benefits are felt across a wide range of businesses throughout the country.

The success of tourism means enrichment of our country. Amidst a very uncertain time in history when the world is reeling from recent events of terrorism, we have to look to our people as our biggest strength and asset. It is therefore fitting that we honor the individuals who bring pride to our country by consistently providing the highest level of excellence in the products and services that they offer.

Congratulations to this year's awardees. It is my sincere hope that the KALAKBAY trophy will encourage our people to never compromise passion for excellence and serve as an inspiration not only to their colleagues in tourism but to all other Filipinos as well. May this celebration lead us into working hand in hand for greater peace, progress, and prosperity for our country.

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to the recipients of the 2001 KALAKBAY Awards..

The KALAKBAY Awards marks the continuing efforts of our country to recognize the people who bring their expertise, their capital and their undaunted passion into, and for, the industry.

I hope that this year's KALAKBAY Awardees, as well as the stakeholders in Tourism, will sustain the drive to spread among our people the value of taking pride in our unique history, culture and heritage --- the very essence of the culture of tourism.

I salute the corporate and individual entities, the people who take pride in the consistent drive for excellence, the people who project the true image of the Filipinos as warm and hospitable --- our KALAKBAY Awardees. I trust that we will continue to join hands and further strengthen our partnership, as we spin the wheels in an industry that is a motor of job opportunities, and a major boost to our country's economy.

Congratulations! *Mabuhay po tayong lahat!*

RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary

The 2001 KALAKBAY Awardees

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

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PALAWAN TOURISM COUNCIL

CREATIVE AWARDS

Tour Package of the Year
EAST VISAYAN PASSAGE
Tour Operator: Marsman Tours and Travel Corporation

Travel Writer of the Year (Foreign)
RICK RUFFIN
"Pinatubo: A Trek Up the Philippines' Sleeping Giant"
Asiana Airlines, November 2000

Travel Writer of the Year (Local)
LESTER LEDESMA
"In the Company of the Sea"
Mabuhay Magazine, January 1999

Travel Publication of the Year (Foreign)
"THE NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER WILD PLACES OF THE PHILIPPINES"
Publisher: New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Tour Guide of the Year
TERESA TAN MAPUTE
Bohol Travel and Tours

Frontliner of the Year
FRED CASTRO
Waiter, Hotel Intercontinental Manila

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MORRIS BISHOP LOPEZ
Waiter, Phoenix Hotel (Angeles City)

Frontliner of the Year
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Guest Services Officer
Pink Patio Resort (Boracay)

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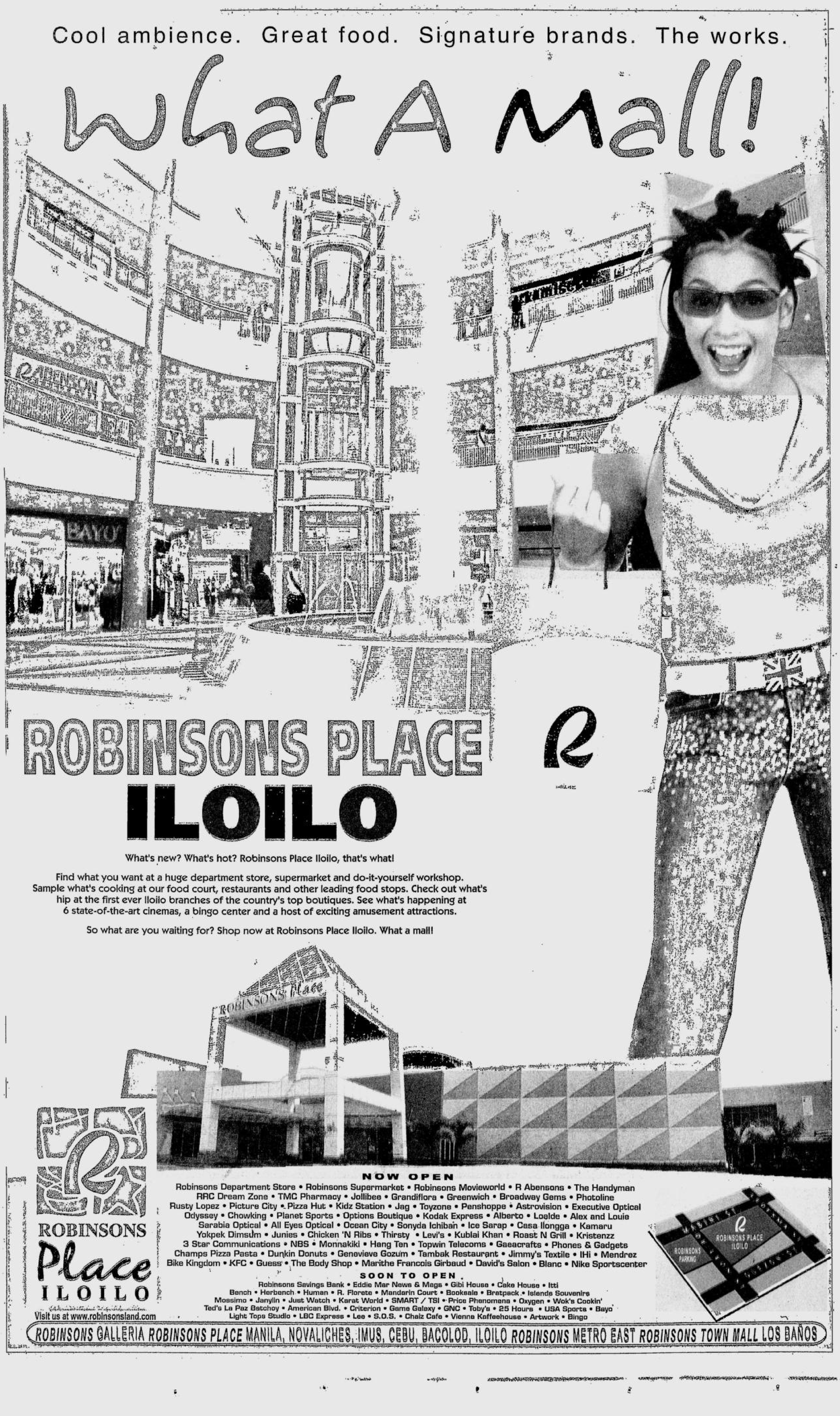

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Comedy-satire depicts priests as humans

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THERE are several dramatic movies done about priests, like "Thorn Birds" (with **Richard Chamberlain** and **Rachel Ward**), "The Priest" (starring **Linus Roache**) and "Monsignor" (with **Christopher Reeve** in the lead). But rarely do we see a comedy flick about priests.

In local show biz, Maverick Films makes an attempt to satirize the lives of priests in its latest offering, "Susmaryosep (4 Fathers)," starring young actors **Bobby Andrews, Bojo Molina, Polo Ravales** and **Gerald Madrid**.

Director **Edgardo "Boy" Vinarao,** who wrote the script of "4 Fathers" with **Jun Lana**, admits the movie is inspired by running priest **Robert Reyes,** who has taken on several causes.

"But instead of only one priest, we thought of casting four priests," Vinarao says. "I am constantly intrigued by the lives of priest. We see them every Sunday in the Mass, but we don't really know what they do outside the church.

"With this movie, I want to let the people know that priests are also human. They should not always be in a pedestal."

Although "4 Fathers" is an intriguing tale about priests, Vinarao assures the film was carefully helmed. He made sure it didn't border on the blasphemous, which can get the ire of devout Catholics.

The producers of the movie initially wanted comedians to play the lead in "4 Fathers." But Vinarao insisted that young actors should star in the movie.

"It's not a comedy film and I needed actors that's why I fought for my cast," he says. "This movie might inspire male teenagers who want to enter priesthood. I also hope the film will enlighten a lot of people about the lives of priests."

"4 FATHERS" director Edgardo "Boy" Vinarao with his lead stars—Bojo Molina, Bobby Andrews, Polo Ravales and Gerald Madrid.

Vinarao started his career as film editor in 1975. He made his directorial debut in 1993 in "Padre Amante," with **Eddie Garcia** in the lead.

Vinarao has since directed a dozen films, including the biopics of Chop-Chop Lady **Elsa Castillo** starring **Lorna Tolentino** and "Epimaco Velasco" with action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**

Vinarao also worked at the helm of "Birador," starring **Rudy Fernandez** and "Kasal-Kasalan," with the young loveteam of **Judy Ann Santos** and **Wowie de Guzman.**

On TV, Vinarao directs Rudy Fernandez's "Kasangga," alternating with **Maryo J. de los Reyes.**

Marissa's No.1 fan

TINTIN Bersola sent me a text message after she watched "Comic Appetite," the show of singer-comedienne **Marissa Sanchez** at the Music Museum last Nov. 30

"Just came from the show and *ang galing niya talaga.* Not only did she make us all laugh from beginning to end, she also displayed her amazing vocal range. *Pag may* repeat, *nood ka.* She's super funny *talaga. Naku,* do I sound like her biggest fan? Well, I am."

Tintin said among the celebrities in the audience that night were **Melanie Marquez, Rosanna Roces, Lani** and **Rachel Lobangco,** and composer **George Canseco.**

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Quality as main consideration

(From page A30)

"*Sino ang pumasok sa* one-way street *at hindi nakalabas? Kaninong pusa ang nagtatago sa ilalim ng kama dahil sa kahihiyan?*"

"*Sino ang walang* significant contribution *sa inyong samahan? Sino ang may kotseng nakaparada sa* no-parking zone?"

Ouch, and double-ouch!

Viewers' suggestions

SOME regular viewers of quiz shows have the following suggestions to make. Let's hope the people behind the shows mentioned are listening:

"Game Ka Na Ba": It isn't fair that, if subsequent questions aren't correctly answered, a contestant forfeits not only his own winnings but also the special showcase he's won for a deserving beneficiary of his choice.

It's OK for the contestant to lose money, but the charity showcase should still be awarded to the beneficiary—otherwise, the show looks like an indian-giver.

"Korek na Korek Ka Diyan": The "Department of Help" should get its act together. First, more intelligent celebrities should be invited to join the show's 'DOH," so they can really help contestants win more money. Second, the DOH shouldn't act as "panggulo" by "intentionally" giving wrong answers to "playfully" confuse the contestants.

Besides, many viewers don't believe that the DOH panel is "intentionally" giving wrong answers. They feel that most of the celebrities are really in the dark about the answers to the questions being asked, and just pretend to be "intentionally confusing" the contestants, so that they don't lose face.

Well, the play doesn't work, so the most productive way out is to get more knowledgeable celebrities, and to make them work hard to *really* help the contestants out.

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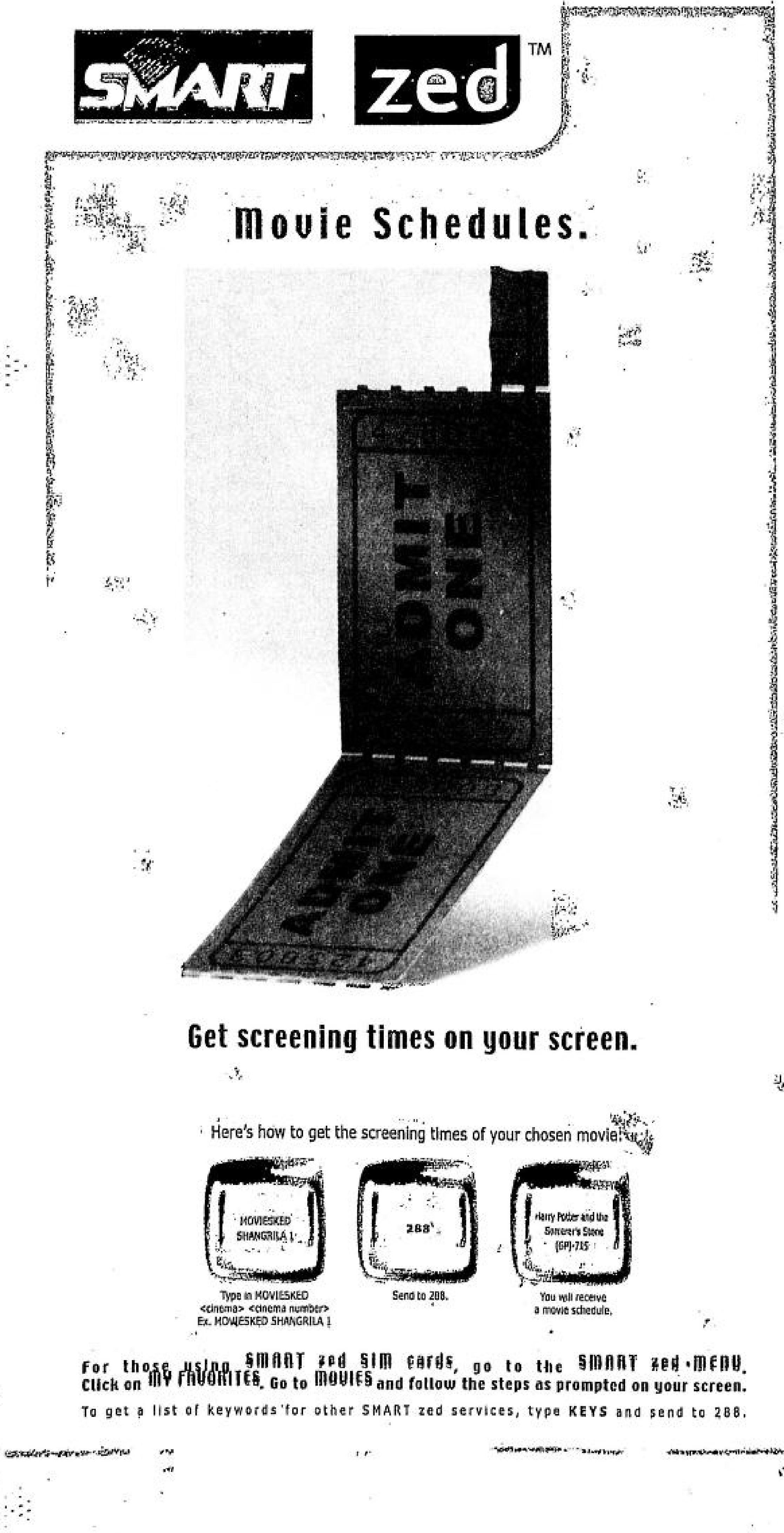

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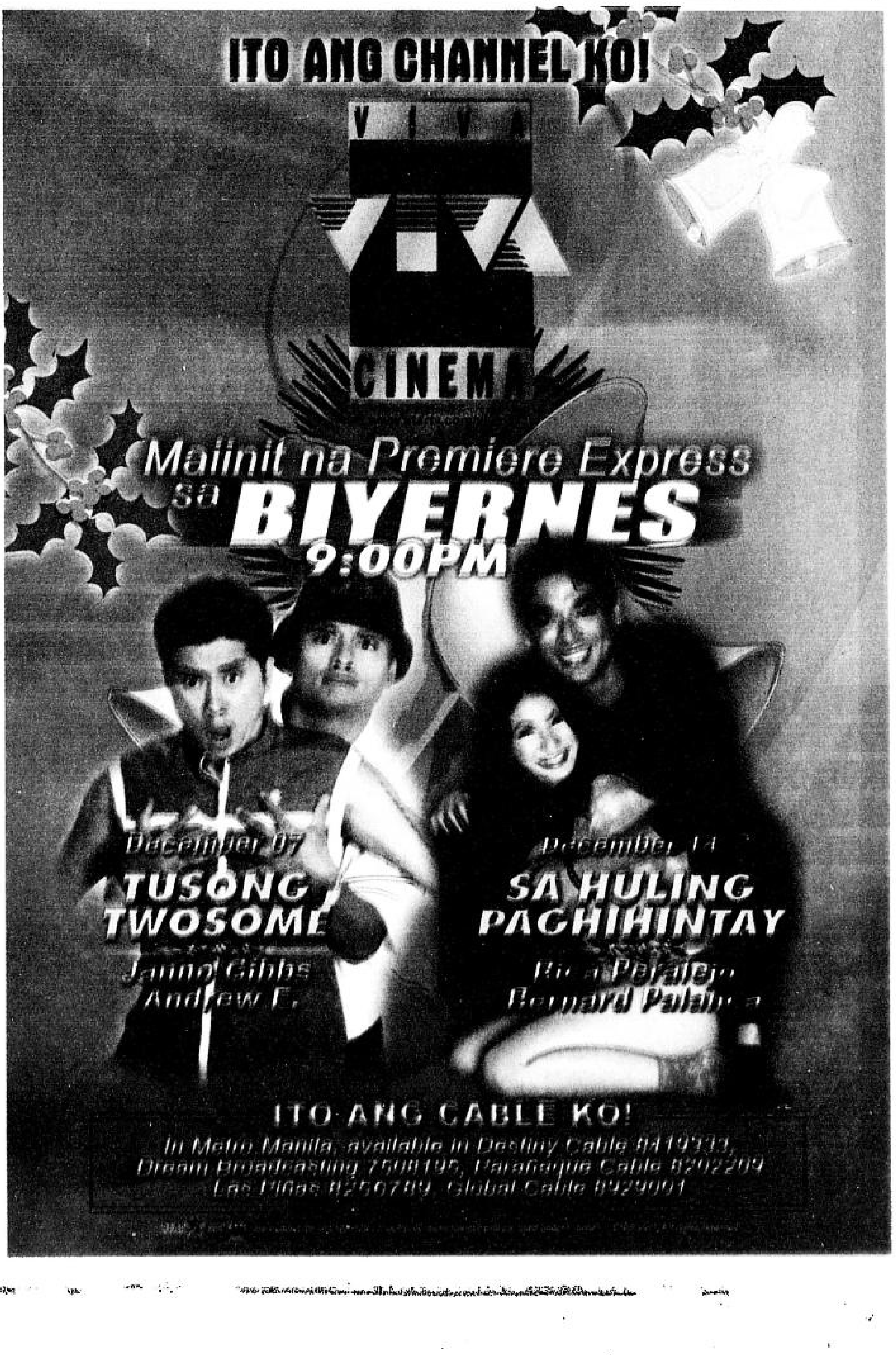

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3	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	IRON LADIES
3	MUSKETEER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
5	TIKIM

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	IRON LADIES
2	TIKIM
3	ROCKSTAR
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	HARRY POTTER
6	MUSKETEER
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA
LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	ROCKSTAR

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	DUGONG ASO
2	HARRY POTTER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	TIKIM
3	13 DAYS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TIKIM
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	
3	
4	MUSKETEER
5	DREAM GIRL
6	IRON LADIES
7 (DTS)	ROCKSTAR
8 (SDDS)	THE SCORE
9 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	DREAM GIRL
3	IRON LADIES
4 (SDDS)	THE SCORE
5	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	TIKIM
9	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE SCORE
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
5 (SDDS)	MUSKETEER
6	IRON LADIES
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	DREAM GIRL
5 (SDDS)	THE SCORE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7880

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	OBSESSION
Lords	SEDUCE
Jennet	

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
2	OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
3	OPENS DEC. 25 2001

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	TIKIM

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	TIKIM

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	ROCKSTAR

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	THE SCORE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAWE
2 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	THE SCORE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DOLBY)	THE SCORE
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4 (DTS)	SERENDIPITY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TEMPTATION NIGHT
2	TIKIM
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4 (DTS)	IRON LADIES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	THE SCORE
4	TIKIM
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM
3	THE SCORE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	THE SCORE
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008

1 (DTS)	TIKIM
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HARRY POTTER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THE ONE
2	SERENDIPITY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	JEEPERS CREEPERS

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1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	ROCKSTAR
5	DREAMGIRL
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
8	MUSKETEER
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	IRON LADIES

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	ROCKSTAR
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC.
4	THE SCORE
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	DREAM GIRL
7	MUSKETEER

METRO EAST
632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	IRON LADIES
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	ROCKSTAR
8	DREAM GIRL

NOVALICHES
936-3229 TO 31

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	DREAM GIRL
4	THE SCORE
5	ROCKSTAR
6	MUSKETEER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.

IMUS
(046) 471-8109

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE SCORE
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	MUSKETEER
5	ROCKSTAR
6	DREAM GIRL

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0459 / 0458

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE ONE
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	WEYT A MINIT

ILOILO
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IRON LADIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	FAST & FURIOUS / A.I.
ODEON	MUSKETEER
ODEON-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Quality as main consideration

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IF the screening committee of the 2001 Metro Manila Film Festival does its job well and doesn't succumb to commercial and "political" persuasion, this year's edition of the annual filmfest could be even better than last year's already praise-worthy version.

Among the more promising prospective entries this year are **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "Bagong Buwan," **Chito Roño**'s "Yamashita" and **Tikoy Aguiluz**'s "Tatarin." Four other slots in the seven-film list of official filmfest entries could be creditably filled by any of some eight other interesting productions.

If the festival sticks to quality as its main consideration despite the usual attempts to dilute its sense of purpose, it could end up as the best MMFF edition in recent memory.

As past experience shows, this emphasis on quality makes not only good artistic sense, but practical commercial logic as well. Time was when quality films were poison at the box office, but that's no longer true.

For the past few years, outstanding films have also topped the competition for box-office supremacy, lending credence to the view that today's film audience has changed and now demands good value for money, plus upbeat values, hope and inspiration in the movies it chooses to patronize.

Will the Metro Manila filmfest have the artistic will to live up to its original charter of providing a showcase for the best movies our film people are capable of producing? Or will it accommodate the commercial aspirations of some relatively undeserving entries?

Whatever the outcome, lovers of good movies should express their reactions to the final choices of official entries, one way or the other, when they are announced later this month.

Colorful put-downs

ON "The Weakest Link," **Édu Manzano** continues to regale viewers with his colorful put-downs of contestants who don't measure up to his fastidious sense of expertise. Some recent examples, which you can try on for size on a resolutely game buddy:

"*Sino ang binigyan ng chicharong makunat? Sino ang nakatanggap ng de latang* expired? Sino ang, hanggang ngayon, pinagyaya-bang ang *kanyang* beeper *at* pager?"

"Hello, is anybody home? *Mukhang walang tao sa bahay. O baka naman* I am dialing a wrong number?!"

QUALITY/ A29

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

When the going gets tragic, show biz unites

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

THE MASS was very solemn and it struck a very personal message in the hearts of all who attended.

It was my first time inside the St. Paul College Chapel and I was awed by the beauty and serenity of this place of worship. The altar's backdrop consisted of huge rocks and it seemed almost like a large grotto, somehow exuding fortitude.

The chapel's ceiling was a warm shade of blue, dotted with little yellow lights, similar to a perfect night sky. The pews were a blend of wrought iron and wood, evoking further the feeling of being outdoors and enveloped in all of mother nature's best.

The unity of show biz, crossing generational, political, network and studio affiliations, was palpable. The king and queen of Philippine movies, **Fernando Poe Jr.** and **Susan Roces**, were there.

The current box office love team of **Judy Ann Santos** and **Piolo Pascual** were also present.

Also accounted for were the current kings of game shows, **Christopher de Leon** and **Edu Manzano**. The beloved matriarch of Sampaguita Pictures came, and Star Cinema, Regal Films, Maverick Films, and Viva Films were also all represented.

Richard Gomez and his wife **Lucy** were around, *Tito* **Eddie Gutierrez** and *Tita* **Annabelle Rama**, brothers **Jomari** and **Anjo Yllana**, *Tita* **Midz Siguion-Reyna** with her daughters **Monique** and daughter-in-law **Bibeth**, the moms of **Aga Muhlach** and **Charlene Gonzales**—*Tita* **Anita** and *Tita* **Elvie**—proved that family will always come together to support each other.

Most touching was the fact that Tita Nida Blanca's family was in attendance led by her daughter **Kaye Torres**, Tita Nida's mom, and her trusted aide, **Elena**.

Vandolph's ailing mom, **Alma Moreno**, was present as well as his brother **Eric Quizon**.

Those of us in the chapel sympathized deeply with both Kaye and Ness, especially during Communion when both must have been affected by the song chosen by the Oasis of Love choir. They both cried heartbreaking tears, those of a daughter who hurts because she misses her mother and seeks justice for her death, and those of a mother still uncertain about what the future holds for her 17-year-old son.

We went because, as my make-up artist **Bern** simply puts it, "Show biz *ang bumubuhay sa 'kin. Ito ang nagbigay ng direksyon sa buhay ko. Dito ako nakahanap ng mga kaibigan at mga karamay. Kung* two hours *lang ang kailangan, at makakatulong ang dasal ko, bakit hindi ako makikiisa?"*

His words sum up exactly how those of us present were feeling. Praying together would help our industry heal. It would also reassure those who have lost their loved ones, and those who are praying for the recovery of their loved ones, that they are not alone.

After my dad's assassination, the message in the simple words *"Hindi ka nag-iisa"* carried hope, provided strength, and shared much needed compassion. In times of crisis, no words can give as much comfort.

When tragedy after tragedy befell the entertainment industry, the pain cast a long shadow on the entire population. When the industry that has provided a welcome escape from life's everyday hardships suddenly saw some of its cherished members suffering inexplicable deaths and accidents, it became impossible to stick to the age-old maxim "the show must go on."

The first positive step was to come together and ask the Almighty for His help. The past year has humbled so many of us in so many different ways. We realized that none of us were invincible. Now more than ever, our faith in God should remain unbreakable.

I close this by sharing with you the most inspiring part of the service. Fr. **Larry** told all of us who were present to lay our right hand on the shoulder of the one next to us. The shoulders figuratively carry our burdens.

The hand on shoulder is meant to lighten your load because it's a reminder that you aren't alone. Your hand on your neighbor's shoulder is a symbol of reaching out, of letting go of selfishness.

The message is simple and universal. Together we can all be instruments of God's goodness, helping each other lift up all the pain, holding on to each other for support, and strengthening each other by reaffirming our faith.

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ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DREAM GIRL - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

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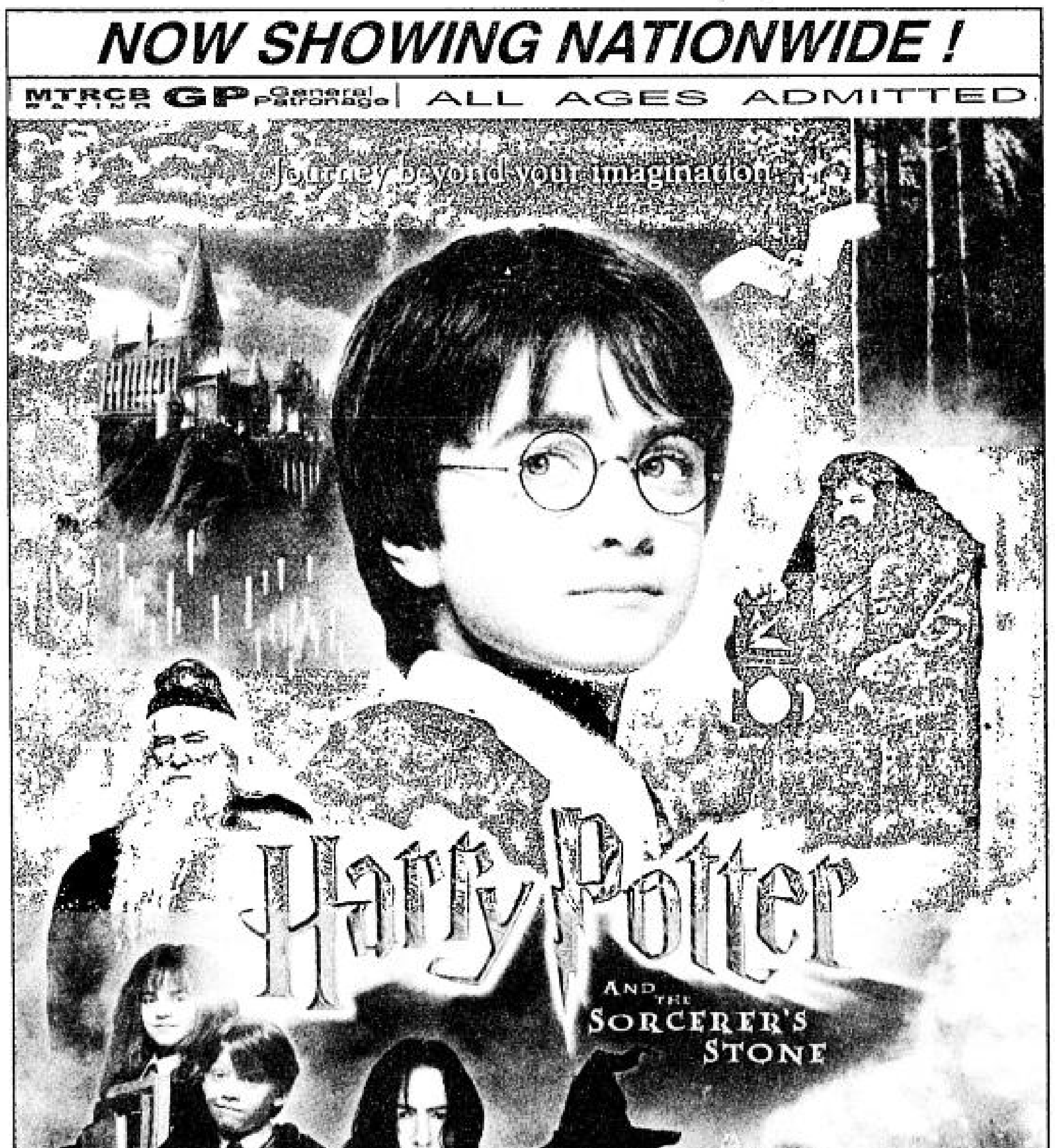
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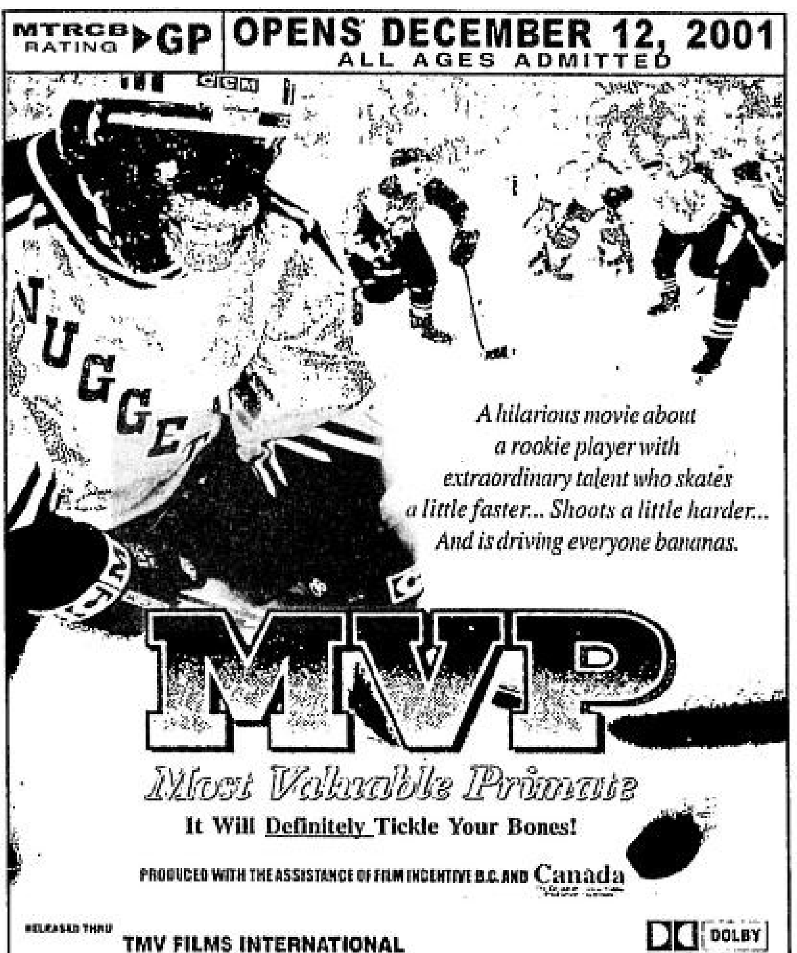
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WRITTEN BY JOHN STOCKWELL PRODUCED BY ROBERT LAWRENCE TOBY JAFFE DIRECTED BY STEPHEN HEREK
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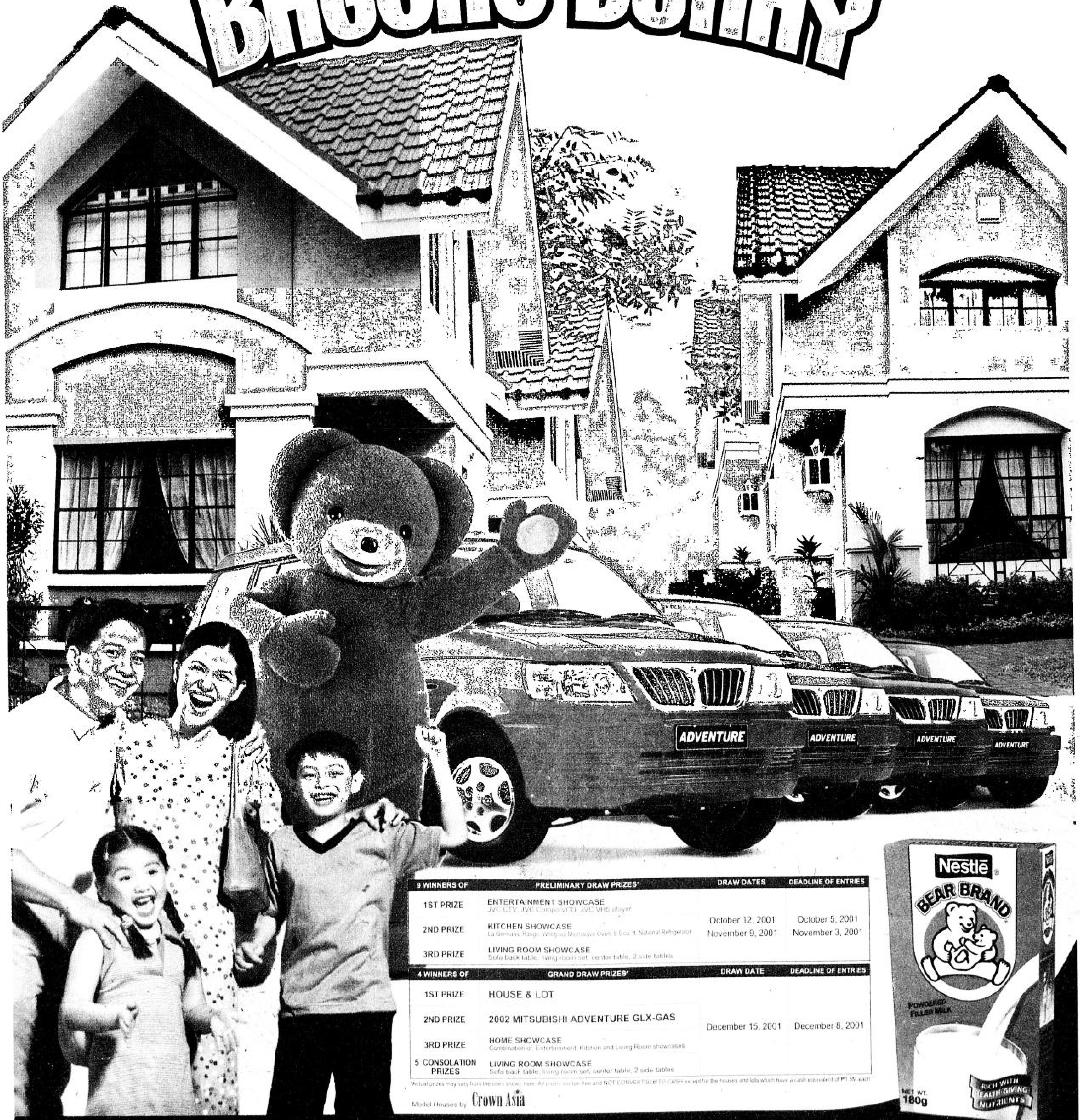

9 WINNERS OF	PRELIMINARY DRAW PRIZES*	DRAW DATES	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
1ST PRIZE	ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE JVC CTV, JVC Compo/VCD, JVC VHS player	October 12, 2001 November 9, 2001	October 5, 2001 November 3, 2001
2ND PRIZE	KITCHEN SHOWCASE La Germania Range, Whirlpool Microwave Oven, 8.5 cu.ft. National Refrigerator		
3RD PRIZE	LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE Sofa back table, living room set, center table, 2 side tables		

4 WINNERS OF	GRAND DRAW PRIZES*	DRAW DATE	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
1ST PRIZE	HOUSE & LOT	December 15, 2001	December 8, 2001
2ND PRIZE	2002 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX-GAS		
3RD PRIZE	HOME SHOWCASE Combination of Entertainment, Kitchen and Living Room showcases		
5 CONSOLATION PRIZES	LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE Sofa back table, living room set, center table, 2 side tables		

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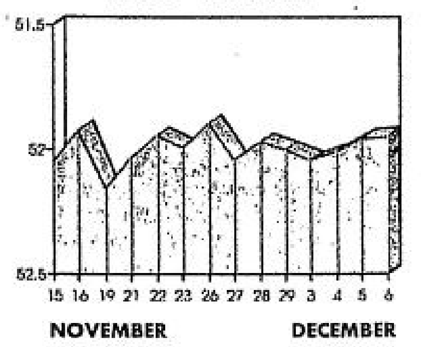

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Dec. 6, 2001

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Dec. 6, 2001

Stocks rise

SHARES closed at a 10-week high yesterday, buoyed by positive offshore developments along with hopes for another central bank interest rate cut and a reduction in bank liquidity reserves.

The main index closed up 11.37 points, or 1.01 percent, at 1,133.34 points. It was the highest closing

STOCKS/ B3

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday cut key interest rates and the reserve requirement on bank deposits to loosen money supply and revive a flagging economy.

A lower-than-expected 4.4-percent inflation rate in November, a stable peso and falling oil prices "have provided the basis for a more accommodative monetary policy setting," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The Monetary Board cut overnight interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point and commercial banks' reserve requirement by two percentage points to 18 percent effective today.

Asked if this would be the last rate cut this year, Buenaventura told reporters: "Not necessarily." He added that there could be further easing after the US Federal Reserve meets next week.

BUENAVENTURA

Buenaventura said prudent monetary policy relaxation would give "broad support to the economy's growth objective amid a weak external environment."

The rate cut will lower the overnight borrowing rate to a six-year low of 8 percent and the lending rate to 10.25 percent.

Banks' liquidity reserve requirements will be lowered to 9 percent and the statutory reserve requirement will be kept unchanged at 9 percent.

The two-percentage-point cut in reserve requirements was expected to release an additional P26 billion into the system, Buenaventura said.

The reserves are kept as a buffer against sudden surges in withdrawals and also serve as a control on money supply.

The Bangko Sentral also adjusted the rates under a tiering scheme in overnight borrowing. Only the first P5 billion of funds placed by a bank with the central bank will receive the full 8-percent rate. The next P5 billion will receive 6 percent and funds above P10 billion will receive 4 percent, Buenaventura said.

"We want banks to channel these funds back to the economy and not to park it with us. We want to make sure that we would set a favorable environment for the first half of next year when the economy would still be weak," he said.

The central bank last cut overnight rates by 50 basis points at its Nov. 8 meeting in response to a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve and tame local inflation data for October. Since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the Bangko Sentral has cut rates by a full point.

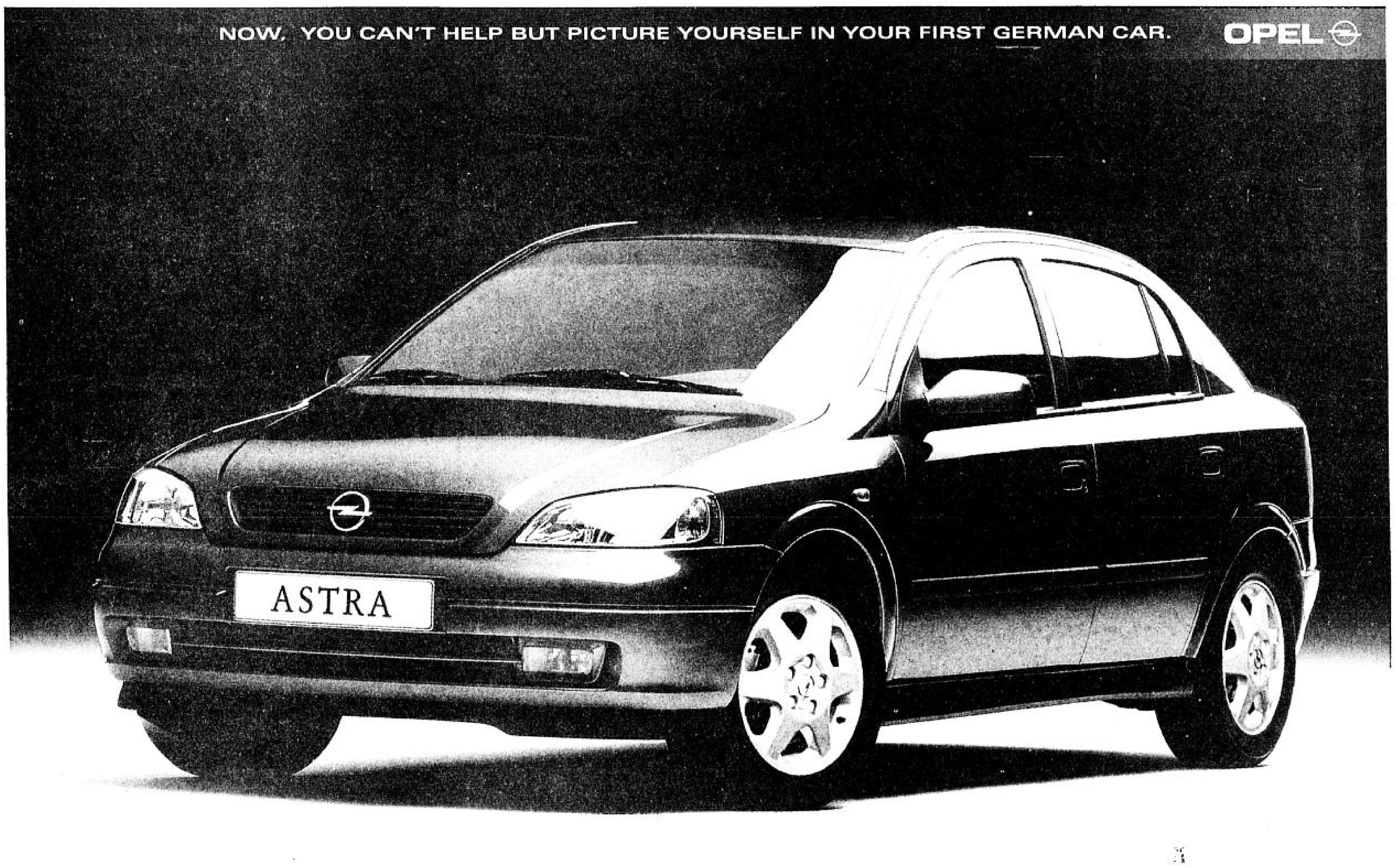
It is the 15th rate cut by the bank since December last year and the total easing comes to 7 percentage points.

The latest monetary easing was widely expected following the announcement of benign inflation for November, which stood at 4.4 percent year-on-year.

Buenaventura said the twin moves should not put pressure on the exchange rate, noting that policymakers were helped by the "significant easing stance" of the US Federal Reserve, "mitigating the risk of abrupt shifts of investment funds toward foreign currency-denominated assets."

Monetary authorities, he said, were confident that the Philippine economy would recover by the second half of next year.

What is important now, Buenaventura pointed out, was for these policies to work its way into the system during the first half of next year and help stimulate a fragile economy during the first two quarters of 2002. *With INQUIRER wire reports*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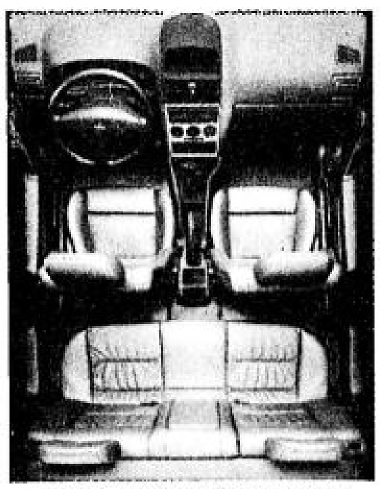

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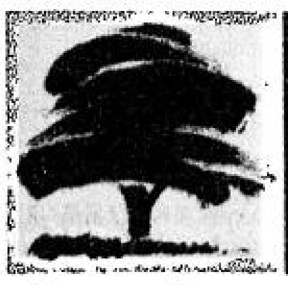

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Bayantel expects no equity infusion from parent firm

By Abigail L. Ho

DEBT-RIDDEN Bayan Telecommunications Inc. may still stand by its position not to get additional equity from its shareholders.

BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar told reporters Thursday that they would be having a board meeting on Monday to discuss some of the things that the banks wanted from them, including an additional equity infusion by their shareholders.

"That request has been made to us by the creditors so the board will be discussing what we can do. I suspect our position will not change. There will not be incremental support from shareholders. Not in the form that they are expecting anyway," he said.

He added that shareholder support could be expressed by ways other than financial, although he did not reveal what other avenues they would be exploring as this would preempt the BayanTel board's decisions.

"Their major concern was lack of shareholder support. They believe that shareholders should show commitment. They're looking for something like that. But it's more a question of principle. We are considering their points. There are actually different ways (to show shareholder support). There's a variety of options that the board is looking at," he said.

Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship firm of the Lopez family and BayanTel's parent company, still had its own debt problem to address so additional equity for its telecom subsidiary was not an option at the moment.

Benpres has to pay $150 million in bonds maturing in December 2002 as well as P2 billion worth of long-term commercial paper.

BayanTel president and chief executive Eugenio Lopez III reiterated that the telecom firm's shareholders could show other forms of support, not only financial.

BayanTel earlier asked its unsecured creditors to condone 25 percent of its principal debt load as well as write off 18 months of interest beginning Jan. 19 on some of its $477 million worth of debts.

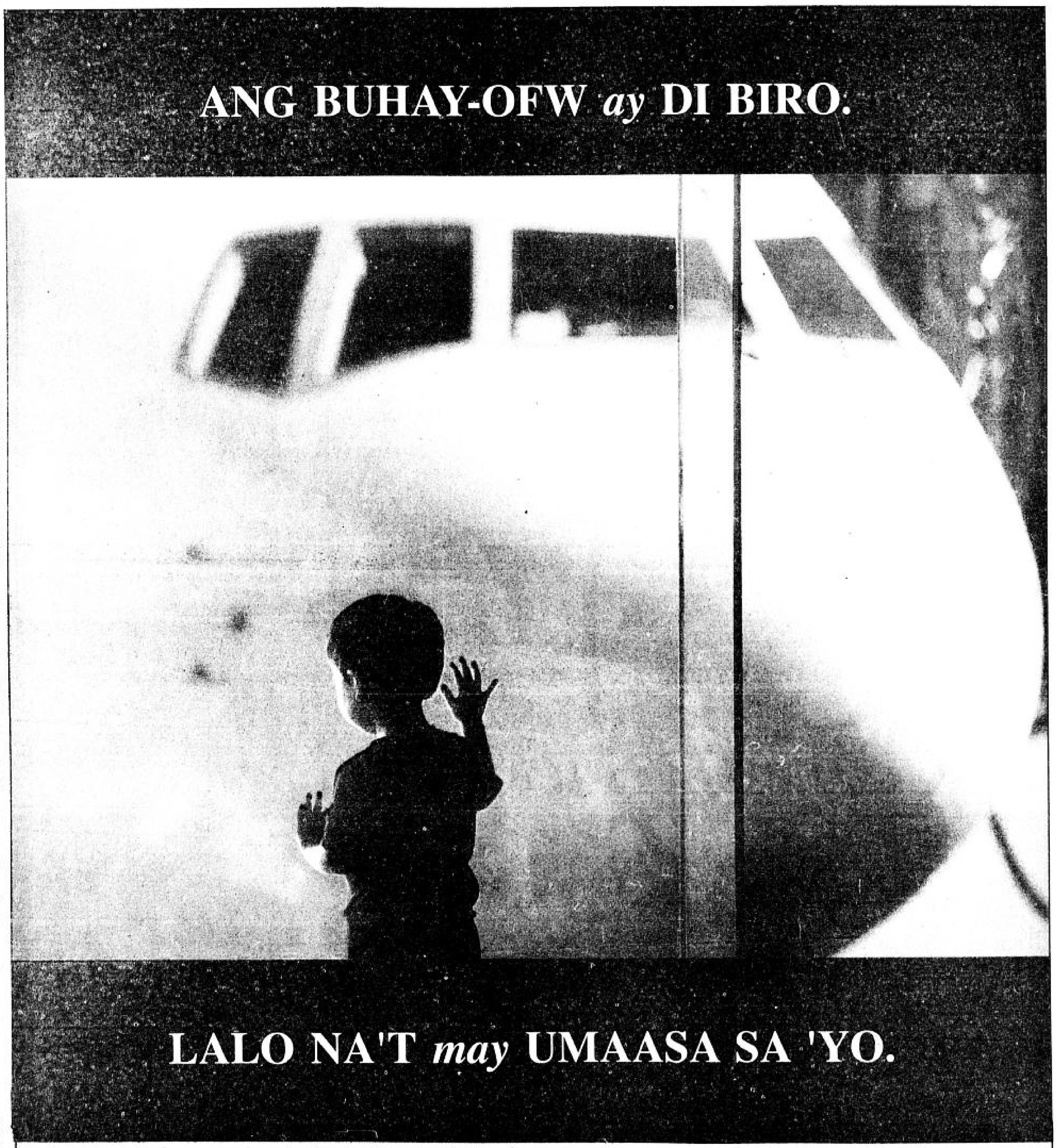
Olivar said the banks have already given their initial responses to the proposed restructure terms, but he did not reveal what points the banks actually raised.

He just said they were going to study the banks' responses and then present a revised proposal before the year ends.

The Lopez-controlled telecom firm continued to post a net loss due to interest payments. But Olivar said they still showed positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) and positive cash flow.

"We are on track to show an improvement in our bottom line numbers by the end of the year, but that will depend on certain things

BAYANTEL/ B3


ANG BUHAY-OFW ay DI BIRO.
LALO NA'T may UMAASA SA 'YO.

RP emerging as a 'hot spot' for IT workers

By Raul C. Dancel

A SLUMP that has forced the world's top technology companies to lay off thousands has given the Philippines an opportunity to dislodge India as Asia's top recruitment site for information technology workers, according to one of the United States' leading technical schools.

"My thought is that there's a possibility that the Philippines will be the next spot for really strong growth in software development," Carnegie Technology Education executive vice president Philip Miller said in an interview yesterday.

CTE is a unit of Carnegie Mellon University, one of the world's top IT and research institutions.

CTE is a partner of the Information and Communications Technology Academy, a subsidiary of local IT school Systems Technology Institute. iAcademy is set to open its Makati campus next year.

Miller said the Philippines, like India, enjoyed the advantage of having English as a second language. What the Philippines has over India, he said, is that the country's IT workers now cost less than those in India.

"The Philippines enjoys price advantage. You can do it less expensive here than in India, which is less expensive than in Mexico, which is less expensive than in the United States," he said.

Miller said with its highly trained workforce, the Philippines was a "hot spot" in the IT industry.

He said a worldwide slump in the computer industry had hit vendor-certified IT workers the hardest.

"The IT slump has really clobbered the vendor-certified skills folks. They are discovering that their jobs are in jeopardy," he said.

He said the IT industry was undergoing a "skills correction" where those with lesser skills were being forced to either leave the industry or acquire new skills.

"As in stocks, where markets tend to correct themselves, the IT industry is undergoing a 'skills correction,'" Miller said.

Among IT workers, researchers and software developers are still very much in demand, he said. These are the areas where the Philippines should concentrate on, he added.

Miller said it would be difficult to ascertain when the IT slump would end, but he stressed that there would always be demand for IT professionals.

"We don't know when this is going to end, but we know that information technology will grow for the rest of our lives," he stressed. "What I can say is that the need for well-trained IT professionals will grow."

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A Malacañang wedding

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IN CASE you are wondering where the First Gentleman is, Mike Arroyo is still in San Francisco, where he was left behind after the President's US visit.

The father is spending quality time with his eldest son and future daughter-in-law, who are apparently bent on taking the plunge, despite they being second cousins.

According to the grapevine, a wedding in July, possibly at the girl's own parish in Forbes' Sanctuario de San Antonio, is already in the works.

As was reported here in May, the Arroyos' eldest son, Mikey, 32, met Angela Montenegro, 27, during a thanksgiving dinner tendered for the extended Arroyo clan by Mikey's mother shortly after she assumed the presidency. A whirlwind courtship that literally crossed oceans ensued thereafter.

Mikey, as you know, is the vice governor of Pampanga and an occasional actor, while London-schooled Angela is a print model in between working for her father, former PCCI president Herman Montenegro.

The two lovebirds are related since the mother of the girl, Charito, is an Arroyo from Negros and a first cousin of Mikey's father and namesake, Jose Miguel Sr.

Herman Montenegro, on the other hand, is the principal of the Pacific Activated Group, one of the few local companies that received a boost despite the Sept. 11 attacks, having won a major US defense-related contract for the supply of activated carbon to be used for gas masks.

One hundred percent Filipino-owned, the low-key Pacific Activated is actually the world's leading supplier of activated carbon. It maintains offices and factories in the United States, France, as well as the Philippines.

Even before Mikey and Angela met each other, the Arroyos, or at least Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, have been close enough to the Montenegros to prompt GMA to accept an invitation to visit the Montenegros in their Baltimore home when she was still a senator.

A favorite story among the Montenegros is how the then senator enjoyed whacking a barrel-full of Maryland crabs laid on the table when the cousins had dinner at Jimmy's, a popular crab restaurant in Baltimore.

Heard through the grapevine

APPALLED by what has been happening over at the Baguio Country Club, PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. has expressed his desire to join forces with the group of stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco and former GM David de Padua.

Banker Carlos Pedrosa, meanwhile, has started a similar crusade, and has in fact been sending letters to fellow BCC members to solicit their respective special power of attorney.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Stocks rise . . .

(From page B1)

level since Sept. 27 this year.

Turnover rose to P507.12 million from P470.44 million on Wednesday.

"It (the market rise) is mostly on expectations that the monetary authority will lower reserve requirements or possibly cut overnight rates again," said online brokerage 2TradeAsia.com's research head Grace Cerdenia.

"There is also some expectation that the United States economic recovery is becoming clearer . . . the United States is our major export destination and any improvement there is good for us," she said.

The Dow Jones and the tech-heavy Nasdaq were both up by more than 2 percent on Wednesday, following a positive services sector report and upbeat forecasts from major technology firms, raising hopes for a swifter-than-expected economic turnaround in the United States.

Mutual Fund Management Co. of the Philippines president Efren Cruz, however, said the near-resolution of the Afghan crisis, rather than the euphoria on Wall Street, was a more solid explanation for the bullish behavior of investors.

Foreign investors have yet to make a significant return to the local market and much of the retail investor activity remains short-term, with investors quickly cashing in gains on short rallies, he said.

"The market is still for the brave, I doubt if housewives are buying stocks yet," he said.

Cerdenia said with the local market establishing a solid base, economic prospects brightening and interest rates easing "we are looking at 1,200 points (on the main index) over the medium (next three months) term."

She said each time the market paused, "new players are coming in to purchase blue-chips . . . at the same time those who pocketed gains when some blue-chips ran up recently are putting their proceeds into second-liners that were left behind in the rally."

Cruz said the future upside would be capped at around 1,250 points, the pre-Sept. 11 resistance level.

"If we move up we would likely be capped at around 1,250 points . . . people need to ask what has really changed (on the economic front) since then." *Reuters*

Local group drilling Tarlac gas prospect

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN all-Filipino consortium started on Dec. 1 the drilling of an onshore exploration well in Tarlac which aims to prove the presence of natural gas, an industry source said.

The source, an official of one of the firms in the consortium, said the well would be drilled for 25 days at a cost of $4.8 million.

"We believe there is as much as 300 billion cubic feet of gas in that area," he said.

The consortium includes state-run PNOC Energy Development Corp., Vulcan Industrial and Mining, Anglo Philippines, Philodrill, San Jose Oil, Oriental Petroleum and Basic Consolidated.

Named Victoria-3, the exploration well boosts hopes of finding more natural gas reserves aside from the 2.7 trillion cubic feet in the Malampaya field.

During the inauguration of the Malampaya gas-to-power project in October, President Macapagal-Arroyo listed measures that the government would promote for the development of the local natural gas industry.

Ms Macapagal said these included the development for non-power uses of small gas fields, which has already been discovered and proven laden with recoverable reserves.

She also said exploring the possibilities of importing natural gas in the future would do well to sustain the local industry if no new gas fields were developed.

"Malampaya's success, however, makes (us) hopeful that many things are still under our waters," she said.

Another exploration well in Cotabato, PNOC Exploration Corp.'s Gansing-1, was also slated for drilling this year but was canceled due to security problems.

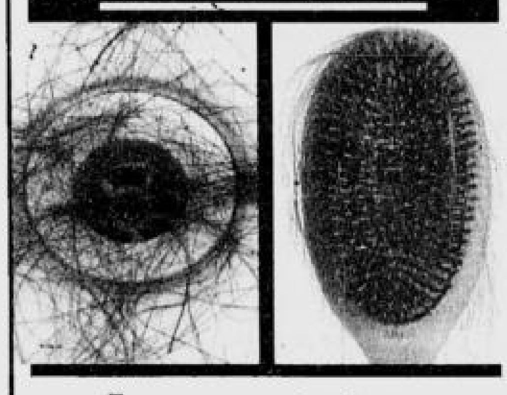
State-run PNOC-EC planned to drill its third exploratory well in the Cotabato basin with hopes of proving the presence of 60 billion cubic feet of gas.

On the other hand, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said last month the government was in talks with Indonesia for a possible natural gas supply deal.

"Based on the Department of Energy's projections of electricity demand, we would need within five to seven years additional gas beyond what Malampaya can offer," he said.

DoE data showed that the country would need almost 10,000 megawatts of additional electricity over the next 10 years.

By next year, natural gas from Malampaya would be running three power plants with a total generating capacity of 2,700 mw.



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Bayantel expects . . .

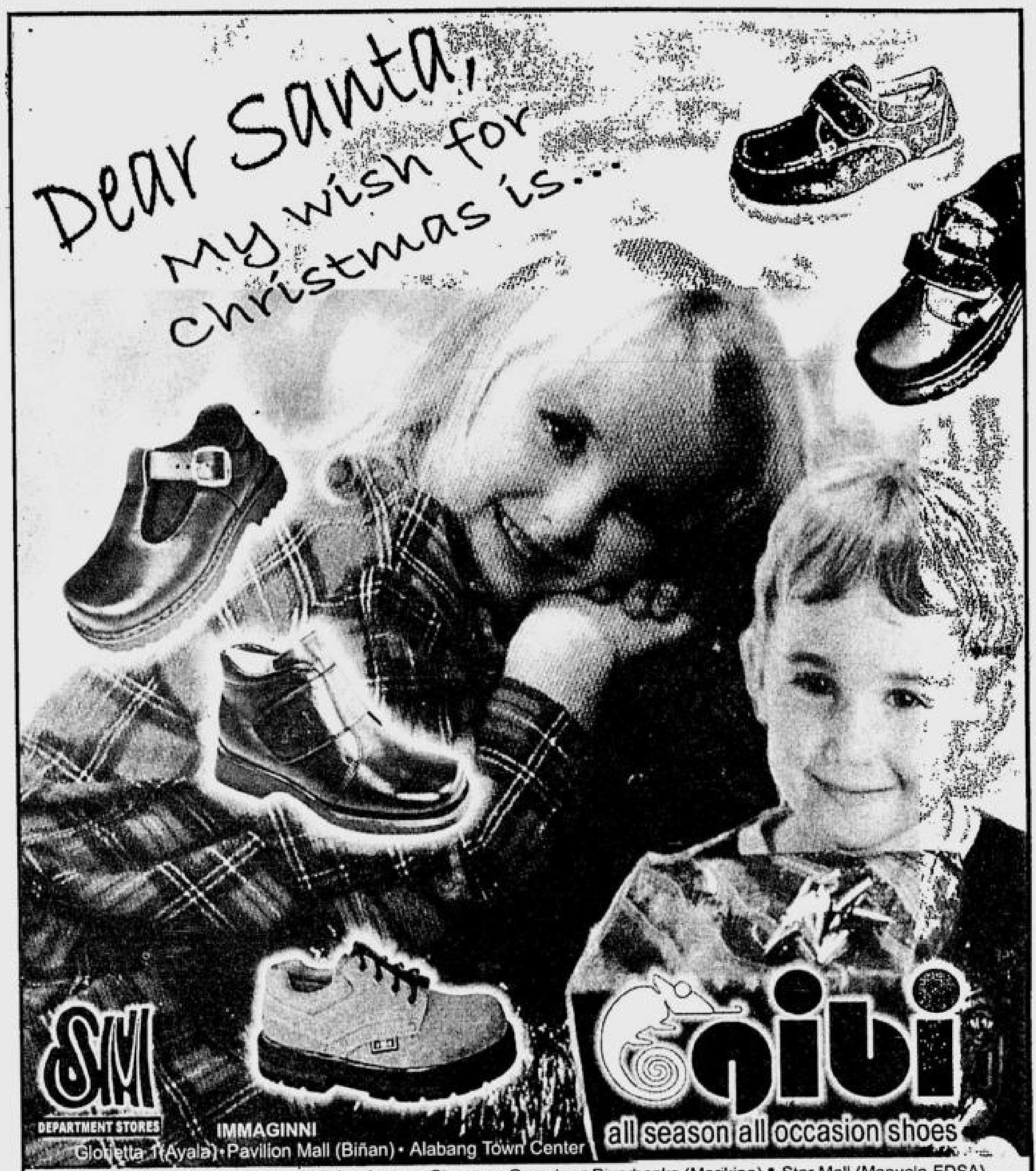
(From page B2)

happening. If these come together, we should be able to show a performance this year that would be better than expected," he said.

Although the year was already about to come to a close, Olivar said a positive response from their creditors on their debt restructuring proposal would still provide a welcome boost to their year-end numbers.

"Hopefully we'll see the beneficial effects of some of the restructuring agreement. But then again, maybe it's too late for that because the year is almost over. But that would help," he said.

BayanTel's creditor-banks include Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Land Bank of the Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCIBank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and JP Morgan Chase.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AT&T 'happy' with PLDT partnership

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TELECOMMUNICATIONS firm AT&T said it was happy with its relationship with dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and it had no plans to go into a partnership with other local carriers at this time.

AT&T Philippines country general manager Edwin Lapitan said in a briefing Thursday that they had a "very good relationship" with PLDT, their local service distributor.

"We're making inroads into a lot of customers through PLDT. I don't see any reason why we have to talk to others, at least at this point. We're running together very well," he said.

As AT&T's local service provider, PLDT is the company that customers contact to get services from the United States-based telecom firm.

All AT&T solutions available in the Philippine market were provided by PLDT, but still kept the AT&T brand, Lapitan added.

The AT&T-PLDT partnership began in 1994 with Subic Telecom, a joint venture project between the two telecommunication companies and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Subic Telecom now continues to provide basic telephone service as well as advanced telecommunications services in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

AT&T's Philippine clients include telecommunications firms, banking and financial institutions, insurance firms and distribution companies.

Its biggest local client to date is Citibank.

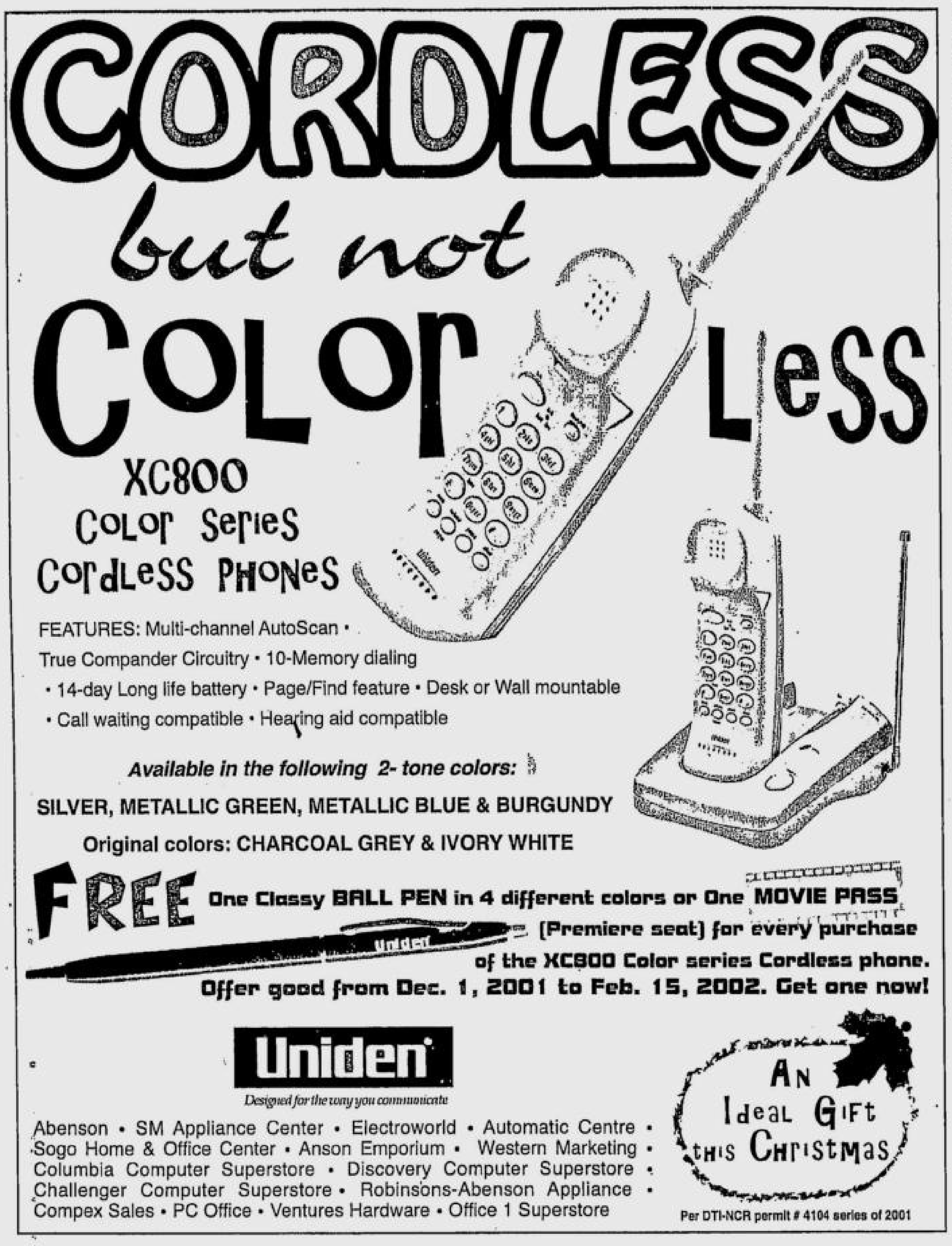
As for additional investments in the country, Lapitan said this was not part of their immediate plans.

"We'll study the market and the demand first. The important thing is that we'll be able to make necessary investment decisions ahead of time so we'll be ready to deliver service to our customers (when they need it)," he said.

The Philippines is one of the biggest traffic producers in the Asia-Pacific region, Lapitan said.

Aside from voice, AT&T offers managed data network services and customer network solutions. New services it would be rolling out over the next months include enterprise broadband connectivity and wireless remote access.

AT&T is the biggest long-distance carrier in the United States with 60 million customers. It posted $66 billion in revenues worldwide last year.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DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 48,190,165 common shares of **Manila Jockey Club Inc.** is set for Dec. 10.

* * *

FIRST e-Bank Corp. said there are exploratory discussions with several interested parties on merger proposals as well as other forms of investment into the bank.

* * *

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Jan. 30, 2002, 4 p.m., at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. said that actual figure of the loan from a French bank is $90 million.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. denied reports it is in any discussions with any party regarding the alleged offer of **Nextel Communications Philippines Inc.** Further, it does not intend to make any new acquisitions in the near term.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**, acquired an additional 1,407,000 shares at P4.30 per share and 4,000 shares at P4.35 per share of **Universal Robina Corp.**

* * *

THE BOARD of **Global Business Bank Inc.** approved in principle its merger with **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.**, the surviving corporation. This will be discussed in the special meeting on March 15, 2002.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.** declared a cash dividend of 2 percent based on outstanding capital stock. The record date is yet to be announced. Total cash dividends would amount to P653,460,380 or P2 per share.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 33,000 shares at P8.50 per share. This is in connection with its stock buy-back program. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, December 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	54.5	52.5	53	670,400
China Banking Corp.	520	540	520	540	1,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	22.75	23	442,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	179	183	179	182	131,990
Philippine National Bank	49	51	49	51	35,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	273,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	240	240	240	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1400	1400	1400	1400	5,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1185	1190	1185	1185	3,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	24.5	24.5	1,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.41	6,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	595	600	580	590	67,980
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	3,000,000
Piltel	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	30,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	410	425	410	417.5	96,320
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	800,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.021	236,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.25	23.25	23	23.25	8,100
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29	29	1,541,000
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.5	1.52	6,018,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	250,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.06	2.12	1.96	1.98	8,992,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	50,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.12	1.12	150,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1	380,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	46,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	49,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.25	24.25	24	24	167,000
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.28	2.28	777,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	51,100
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	216,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.58	0.54	0.54	70,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5.1	5	5	2,944,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	35,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.78	920,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	22,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	4,030,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	210,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11	10	10	21,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.86	0.79	0.86	42,870,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.205	0.21	4,360,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.93	180,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	100,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	480,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.175	0.19	0.16	0.17	5,720,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	110,000
Ionics Inc.	7.2	7.9	7.2	7.7	506,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	27,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.08	0.13	0.08	0.11	16,790,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.74	0.68	0.7	2,130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.39	19,470,000
Music Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.41	0.43	47,790,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	101,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	1,270,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.2	10,190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.27	0.3	530,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.79	0.9	0.79	0.9	130,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	3,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	380,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.4	0.4	120,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	12,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	24.75	24.75	1,061,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	257,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	410	410	410	410	600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	129,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	74,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.0065	477,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	8,224,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.215	0.215	3,570,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.37	0.4	6,420,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	6,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.76	1.76	12,082,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.205	0.205	320,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.21	570,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	5,359,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	900,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	12,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.003	0.0034	14,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	52,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	7,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	12,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.0055	170,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	53,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,579,740	88,180,395.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,093,538,704	920,524,931.00
PRO	43,755,000	101,578,340.00
Mining	85,714,000	675,500.00
OIL	236,810,000	1,567,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,461,397,444	1,112,526,166.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	454.31	UP 3.57
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,568.39	UP 10.44
PRO	514.17	UP 11.51
Mining	1,033.37	UP 1.78
OIL	1.93	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	716.45	UP 6.57
Composite	1,133.34	UP 11.37

NO. OF ADVANCES: 44; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF

CURRENCIES

Dec. 06, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.125113	1.000000	51.9850
Japan	Yen	0.009062	0.008054	0.4187
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593947	1.416700	73.6471
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144256	0.128215	6.6653
Switzerland	Franc	0.678473	0.603027	31.3484
Canada	Dollar	0.714403	0.634961	33.0084
Singapore	Dollar	0.613308	0.545108	28.3374
Australia	Dollar	0.581754	0.517063	26.8795
Bahrain	Dinar	2.984542	2.652661	137.8986
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300030	0.266667	13.8627
Brunei	Dollar	0.611142	0.543183	28.2374
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025611	0.022763	1.1833
UAE	Dirham	0.306403	0.272331	14.1571
Korea	Won	0.000892	0.000793	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888800	46.2043
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454436	23.6239
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135497	7.0438
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403320	20.9666
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064592	3.3578
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022033	1.1454
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000459	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.149485	7.7710
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004433	0.2304
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005342	0.2777
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022033	1.1454
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.128543	58.6673

The church on labor and capital

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHAT has the Church done for the people?

While labor is struggling hard to survive under very harsh conditions imposed by a globalized economy and beset by a confluence of socioeconomic and political difficulties, and while capital is being attacked by the onslaught of recession, intense competition and rising cost of business, there is a deafening silence from the Church.

We can no longer trust the government to provide the solutions to our labor-management problems such as low wages, unabated workers' migration, exploitation, unfair labor practices, declining work productivity, strikes, lockouts and relentless attacks against job security. We can't even trust it to settle our labor disputes expeditiously and inexpensively. In fact, the government is part of the problem, not of the solution. And now, the Church is abandoning us.

Spirituality of work

Pope John Paul II, in 1981, issued the encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, whereby he reaffirmed the dignity of labor and placed labor at the center of the social question. He declared the spirituality of work and supported the rights of the workers and unions. While addressed to the whole world, it was really Karol Wotyla's open support to workers' solidarity movement in his homeland. It was the Church's partisan position on the conflict between the Archbishop of Krakow and the Marxist in Poland.

Here, now, the Church is not heard in the arena of labor relations. It chooses to be silent while some heartless capitalists are on a rampage to massacre the workers' jobs. The Church does not take a position in the face of the radical labor's substantive inroads into the lives of the toiling masses. There is no Church leader whose voice can give us an alternative direction to follow. The Church is losing grounds to both the unbridled capitalists and the aggressive Marxist-Leninists.

Against extremism

The Pope also issued in 1988 another encyclical, *Solicitudo Rei Socialis*, whereby he denounced the confrontational stance between the Marxist collectivism of the East and the ultra liberal capitalism of the West. He talked of the structures of oppression and sins as well as various ecological concerns, and the option of the poor given all these contemporary events.

But today, the Church won't take a position on the issue of poverty, injustice, corruption, rising crimes and terrorism. We can hear an occasional sermon here and there, now and then, intermittently and at random. There is no single sustained, purposive and passionate overall voice condemning the present social cancers of our society. The politicians are dominating airtime. The merchants and media men are monopolizing the attention of the masses. The Church is conspicuously absent.

Not living one's faith

How can the Church then fulfill its mission as *mater et magistra* (mother and teacher) to the people, as John XXIII urged in 1961? The clergy and the laity are not heeding the call to action made by Paul VI in 1971 when he wrote *Octogesima Adveniens*. Man has turned his back on Pope John Paul's challenge to become co-redeemer with God in *Redemptor Hominis*.

Instead, we see bishops, pastors, imams and Church elders in ostentatious celebrations while the squatters have no homes, the workers have no jobs, the sick and the injured are turned away by hospitals operated by religious orders and the prisoners are denied spiritual renewals and pastoral care. We see priests and preachers in fancy cars and expensive habits while the toilers can't afford transport and basic clothing. We see sons of farmers who can't afford the tuition fees in schools run by priests and nuns.

Church's irrelevance

We thus question the relevance of the Church in the lives of the suffering hoi polloi. As early as 1891, Leo XIII already condemned the inhuman conditions of the working class in the then emerging industrial societies.

Today, the Church doesn't denounce the exploitation of minors working in firecracker factories, the corruption of women in karaoke bars and clubs and the massive destruction of families and marriages through the unabated migration of husbands to Saudi, wives to Hong Kong, sons to marine voyages and daughters as japayukis to Tokyo.

I don't hear the Church using the pulpit to lambaste the drug lords, gambling lords, corrupt politicians, terrorists, kidnappers, illegal recruiters, pedophiles, the summary executioners, greedy employers, union busters as well as the purveyors of deaths and destruction. Today, we hear of bishops willing to accept money from big-time gambling lords.

No meaningful difference

Where does the Church stand regarding the burning issues of the day? In 1931, Pius XI wrote about social injustice in *Quadragesimo Anno*, in the backdrop of worldwide economic depression. Today, why can't the Church see the demolition of squatter colonies, the deaths in Payatas, the murders of innocent workers and the kidnappings of union leaders.

I am sad that the Church that I belong to cannot create a meaningful difference in the lives of the poor, as the Vatican II envisioned in 1965 via the *Gaudium et Spes*, or as Paul VI urged in 1975 in *Evangeli Nuntiandi*. Once in a while, I hear some disjointed words about isolated social concerns. I see tokens and symbols of compassion from some sectors of the Church. But then again, there is no unifying theme.

I don't want to say that the Church is the weakest link in the overall socioeconomic fabric of today's life. But I am thirsty for some genuine action giving preferential options for the poor. Will the Church continue to remain neutral in the face of painful social realities in our midst.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

DTI to invoke WTO policy on drug patents

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is planning to invoke the new World Trade Organization's declaration on drug patents by compelling pharmaceutical giants to share their formulas with local drug makers in order to bring down drug prices.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II told reporters that the WTO's new declaration on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health allowed national governments to force pharmaceutical firms to open up their medicine formulas, including patented drugs, to other drug makers.

The Doha declaration states that each WTO member has the right to grant compulsory licenses; the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted, and the right to determine what constitute a national emergency or public health crises such as HIV/-AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

The Doha declaration gave WTO members the flexibility to interpret and implement their rights to protect public health and, in particular, ensure access to medicines for all.

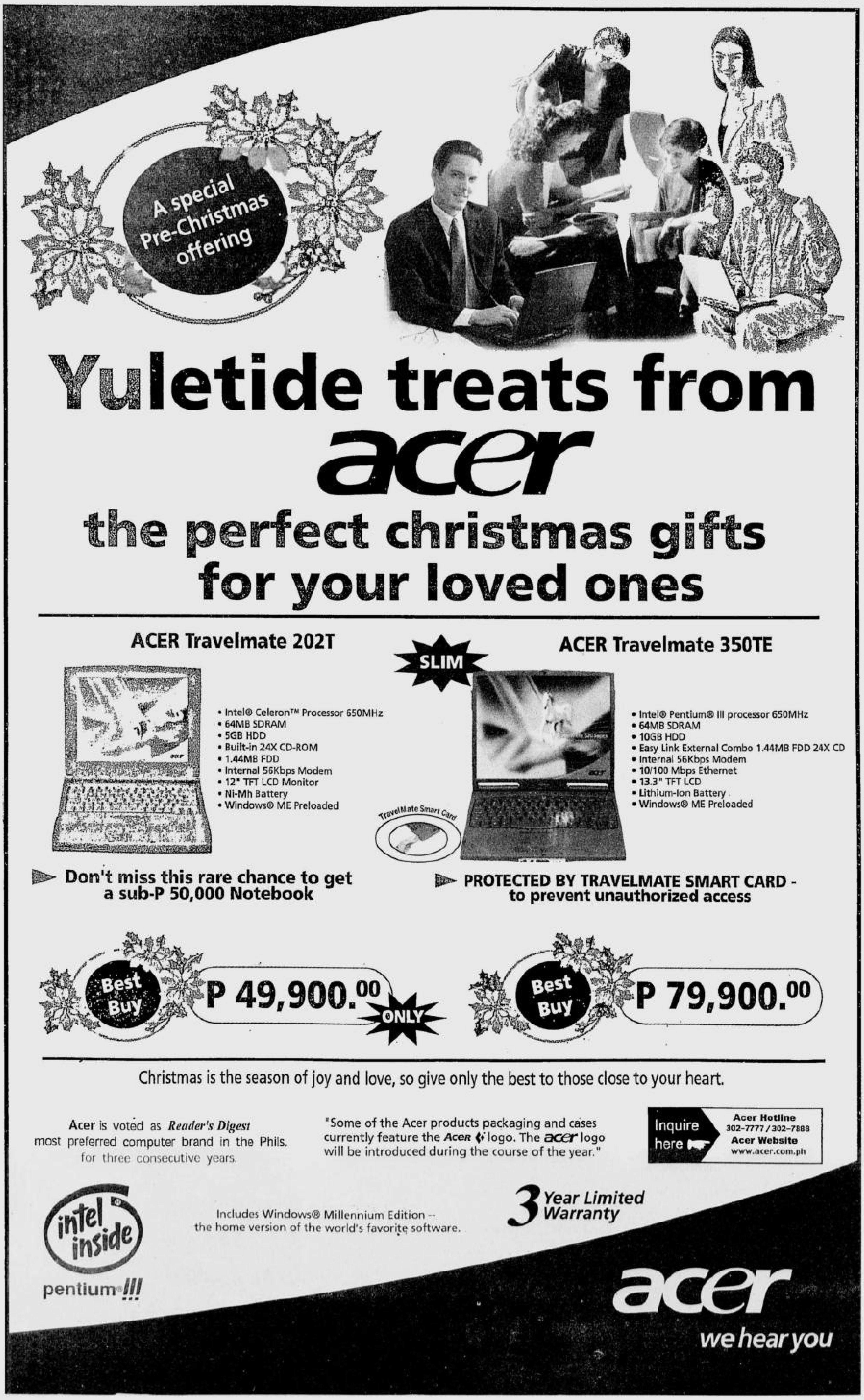
The government's parallel importation of drugs from India has been stymied by strong opposition from pharmaceutical giants that claimed to be protecting their rights to these products.

Roxas said there should be no more stumbling blocks to the government's bid to provide Filipinos with cheaper medicine through parallel importation.

Roxas said the government would expand the sales outlets for the Indian drugs from 30 to 300 while expanding the list of drugs brought into the country from eight to 30 by next year.

The Trips agreement has been the biggest hurdle to the government's bid to bring in cheap medicine in bigger volumes and a broader product range. The Trips guarantees 20-year patent on medicine which requires countries to seek a waiver for their use as generic drugs before they could be traded between countries or face sanctions from the WTO.

Roxas has criticized developed countries for agreeing to relax patents on medicine but only in cases of pandemics (such as the AIDS epidemic in Africa) when it could save substantially more lives by allowing developing countries with marginalized population to buy ordi-



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SUCCESS STORY

By Elena R. Torrijos

NELSON Yao learned how hard it was to make a buck early in life.

When he was in fourth grade, he began working twice a week at his father's fabric shop in Binondo in between school years. When he reached high school, he was in the factory at least four times a week. That was how he got his "pocket money."

It wasn't easy work, he recounts. Until now, he can still remember the unpleasant smell of chemicals used to dye fabric and the acids that stung his eyes. The experience, however, served him well.

After graduating from San Beda College with a degree in marketing 11 years ago, Yao, with the help of his father and 12 of his father's cronies, financed a venture into casual wear for boys. That was the start of the "Molecules" brand under Chanel Manufacturing Corp., a company that Yao and his wife, Cherry, formed.

Since then, Molecules has become one of the more recognizable brands in casual wear, rivaling big names in the industry like "Bench" and "Penshoppe."

Hard climb

Yao, who is now 36, says he's grateful for all those years he spent hanging out at his father's factory. The experience, while difficult, gave him the discipline that carried him through difficult times.

It was a hard early climb, says Yao, the second of three sons.

There was a time when Yao had to personally deliver clothes to department stores. One time, he was mistaken for a delivery boy. Another time, a store owner scoffed at what he was selling. That was when very few had ever heard of Molecules, except as a big word taught in science classes.

Yao also had to deal with the rigid business views of his shareholders—Chinese businessman long used to the traditional practice of simply offering low prices to get enough volume.

One idea that Yao had to fight for was advertising. He wanted a face to go with the brand, but his shareholders balked at spending huge sums on getting celebrities to endorse their products. In the end, Yao prevailed and he quickly signed on one of the most recognizable faces on noontime TV, comedian Joey de Leon, one of the hosts of the popular variety show "Eat Bulaga!"

Giving a face to a brand

Cherry says it took just one phone call to convince De Leon to endorse Molecules. A day after he signed up with Chanel, De Leon was already wearing Molecule T-shirts, and soon, life-size cutouts of the comedian holding bags of Molecules items were popping out of shopping malls. Finally, the brand had a face to go with it, and people began taking notice.

In 1995, Chanel signed up teenage actress Claudine Barreto for a new line of clothes, "Particles," lending more recognition to its brands. Its latest endorser is actor Rico Yan, who now models for Molecules.

The advertising gambit has evidently paid off for Yao, whose company now chalks up over P4 million in monthly sales.

One drawback, though, is that the Molecules brand has become so popular that it has spawned copycats, a problem that is eating into Chanel's earnings.

At present, Chanel has about 200 employees and over 100 outlets nationwide, including branches in Palawan, Davao, Cebu and Zamboanga.

Secret of success

Asked about the secret of his success, Nelson replies that he simply adheres to a "typical formula."

"We stick to the basics, You have to be hardworking, people-centered and fair in your business dealings," he says.

His wife, Cherry, says Yao "really thinks about what the company needs."

Yao says he is still cooking up plans to make his brands more popular and increase its market share. He says his company is considering introducing next year accessories to its array of products after it launches its underwear line this year. Nelson adds that they will also be more aggressive in advertising and creating brand awareness.

Economy seen picking up in early 2002

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas predicted yesterday that the domestic economy would pick up at a faster pace by the first quarter of next year.

In an interview, Canlas said the government was keeping its gross domestic product growth target of 3.7 percent for the fourth quarter of the year. It needs to reach this level to meet its minimum 3.3-percent GDP growth average for the entire year.

The Macapagal administration is hoping to chalk up an average growth rate of 4.3 to 4.8 percent next year.

"A recovery may not be a proper term because the Philippines is not in a recession. Based on our forecast, we're looking at the first quarter of 2002 as the start of the phase when the growth in real GDP will gather strength," Canlas told reporters.

In its latest Asia Economic Monitor, the Asian Development Bank said the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States might set back East Asia's economic rebound to mid-2002. The ADB has scaled down its GDP growth forecast for the Philippines to 2.7 percent from 3.1 percent.

A UK-based think tank, Consensus Economics, estimates that the Philippines will post a 2.4-percent GDP growth this year and 2.8 percent next year.

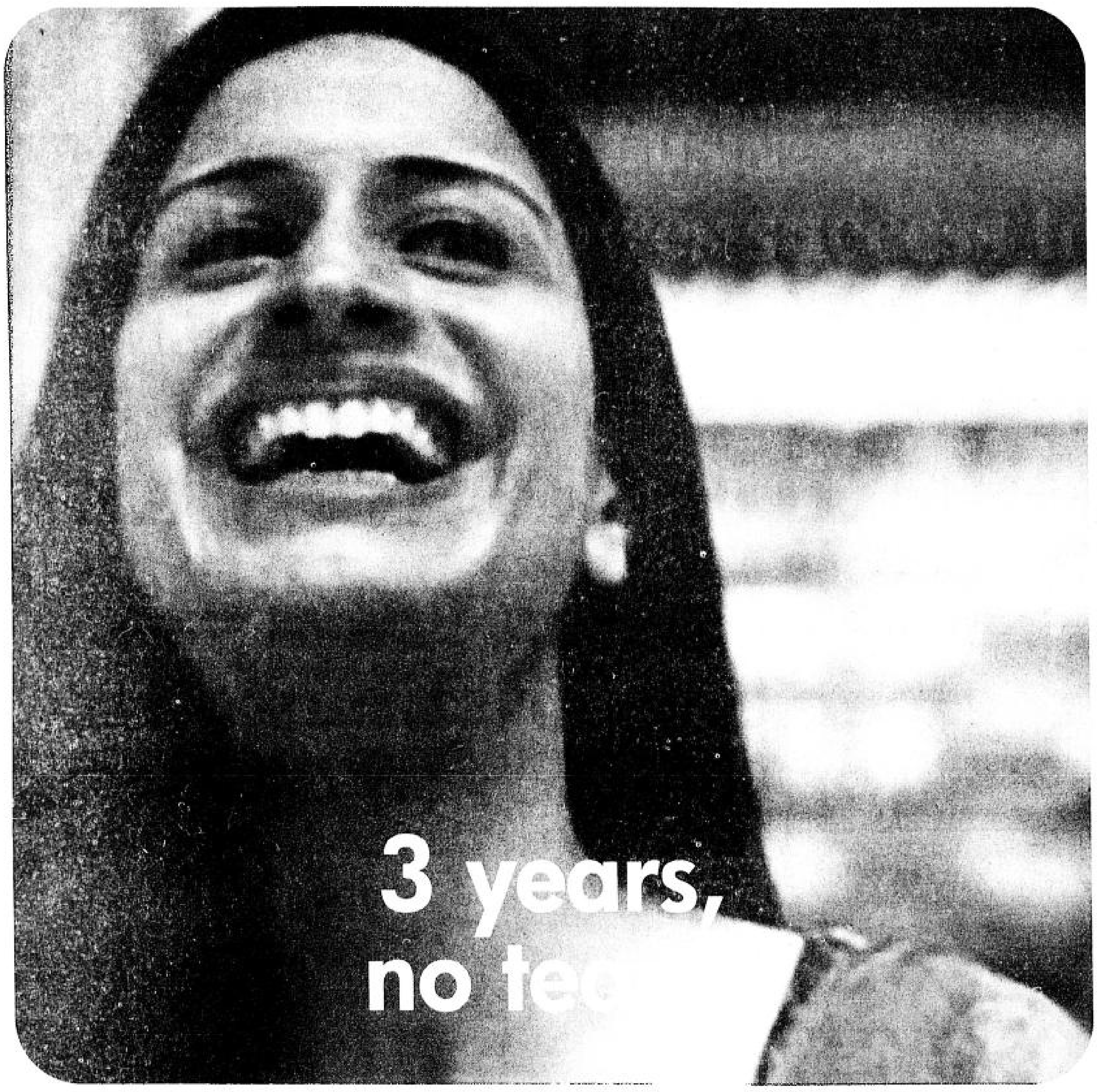
"The risk to the country's growth will depend on the depth and duration of the recession in the United States. However, some encouraging news came as far as the US economy is concerned," Canlas noted.

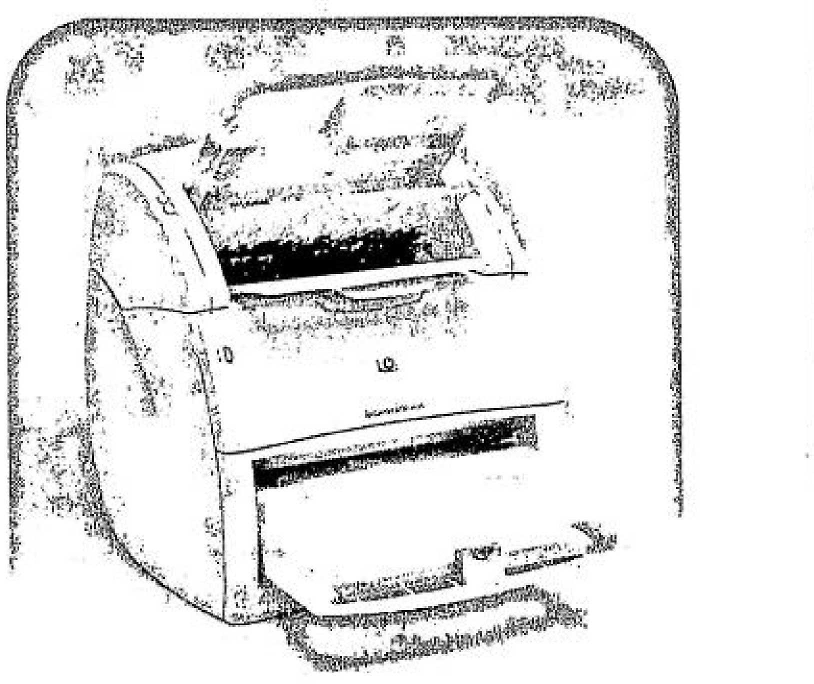
He said latest data from the United States showed that personal spending among Americans had expanded by 2.2 percent, higher than the private sector's expectation of 1.9 percent. US retail sales, he added, also saw some recovery in October.

Canlas said he did not expect the recession in the United States, the Philippines' biggest trading partner, to last well into next year. Previous recessions in the United States lasted for only six to nine months, he noted.

"That would help the economy in terms of arresting the decline in the Philippine merchandise exports," Canlas said.

The country's export earnings have been shrinking for nine consecutive months as the foreign market for electronic components, the country's cash cow, continues to tighten due to the global economic slowdown.





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Per DTI-NCR No. 2039. Series of 2001.

Perez cites benefits from power act

ELECTRIC power consumers will have the power of choice in a modernized industry that will generate, supply and distribute electricity more efficiently.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez said this as he emphasized that Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EIRA) would lead to the creation of an empowered consumer group.

Perez said the EIRA mandated the restructuring of the present power industry which, in turn, would allow more private sector participation and encourage competition in the power generation and supply sectors.

The wholesale and retail supply of electric power has now technically been opened to competition, Perez said. This will benefit the consumers in two ways as competition will lead to consumer-friendly pricing structure and better services, he added.

Perez said the deregulated power supply sector would enable household consumers to form co-operative-type associations to leverage their number and buy electric power at "more reasonable costs and from the supplier of their choice."

This is a major innovation introduced in the EIRA. It is expected to revolutionize the way consumers buy electric power, Perez said.

Perez is optimistic that the empowerment of the electricity consumers "will follow the way the telecommunications market developed in the country."

PPA REPLACEMENT

Port users demand changes in cargo handling rate setting

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A GROUP of port users is urging Malacañang to tap an independent body to replace the Philippine Ports Authority in deciding on a petition to raise cargo-handling rates by 25 percent.

The Coalition for Ports Modernization claimed that the PPA did not observe due process in its conduct of past public hearings for rate increases, failed to compel service providers to submit regular financial reports, and had no formal set of guidelines in reviewing rate increases.

Meneleo Carlos Jr., chair of the Export Development Council's supply chain committee, said the PPA rate setting authority has been "arbitrary" because it has no sufficient data to use as basis in coming up with a decision on rate increases.

Carlos said the PPA's decision in the past had completely relied on the petitioner's claims as the only basis for raising service fees. Carlos said the petitions were mostly unsubstantiated.

Carlos said the glaring lack of basis for rate increases was more "onerous" to consumers because the PPA has pecuniary interest—it gets a 10-percent share of the cargo handling rates.

While the coalition would continue to participate in the public hearing on the cargo handling rate hike petition, Carlos said the government should also entertain the group's petition for a review of the rate setting process, possibly through the appointment of an independent body. He said the group merely wanted an "equitable" rate setting process.

The coalition is not only opposing the pending rate hike, he said, it is also demanding for a reconsideration or rollback of the rate increases made since last year.

The coalition is composed of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Distribution Management Association of the Philippines; Export Development Council; Mindanao Business Council; Northern Mindanao Shippers Association; Federation of Free Farmers; Association of Private Port Owners and Operators of the Philippines; Pier 8 Arrastre Stevedoring Services Inc.; Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika; Federation of Electronics, Electrical and Allied Industries; and Asosasyon ng Manggagawa sa Pantalan.

Gov't promotes commercial use of natural gas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is stepping up efforts in developing other uses of natural gas aside from power generation.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said the government would be pushing for the full commercial use of compressed natural gas for buses within the next two years.

Perez said this program would start in Batangas, which hosts three gas-fed power plants and the onshore Malampaya gas processing terminal.

"By 2004, the government foresees that the whole of Calabarzon will be using CNG-fueled buses for public transportation," Perez said in a news statement.

Calabarzon groups the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Aurora, Rizal and Quezon.

The secretary stressed that the government did not want to confine the use of natural gas to power generation alone since there were definitely other uses of natural gas.

Perez's statement came after the inauguration of the country's first hybrid diesel/CNG-fueled bus on Monday in time for the celebration of the National Energy Week.

The government intends to convert the shuttle buses of the Department of Energy and Philippine National Oil Co. into gas-fed vehicles.

Late last month, Perez said he had talks with senior officials of the US Department of Energy regarding the development of the country's downstream natural gas industry.

"We discussed their clean cities program where they gather the support of stakeholders in the industry on how they can introduce CNG in the transport sector," he explained.

The secretary said the Americans have successfully done this across the United States and for the first time in a foreign country, Santiago, Chile.

"They think this is something they can replicate in Metro Manila," Perez said.

In an earlier interview, Perez said Japanese and German firms were offering technical assistance to the government for the promotion of vehicles that run on CNG.

He said the firms were manufacturers of CNG-fed buses and trucks.

The secretary said that the use of CNG for vehicle fuel was easiest to promote in fleet-managed vehicles.

Groups protest Manila Mining expansion plan

PLACER, Surigao del Norte—Efforts of Manila Mining Corp. (MMC) to explore gold deposits in Barangays Anislagan, Macalaya and Boyongan of this town were met with resounding protests.

Members of the Anislagan Bantay-Kalikasan Task Force (Abakataf) and Aklas-Kinaiyahan, a province-wide environmental watchdog, on Monday trooped to the company's exploration site to condemn the exploration moves of MMC. The moves, they said, would destroy the watershed areas that supply potable water to the entire province and the farmlands at the foot of the mountain.

"We have already witnessed what happened to the mountains of Barangay Mapaso where MMC has mining operation. We do not want them to also destroy our mountains," said United Church of Christ of the Philippines pastora Gay Reveche, chair of Abakataf.

Aklas-Kinaiyahan also slammed the Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942), for paving the way for companies to legally destroy the environment.

Both environmental groups have been conducting protest actions against MMC's expansion moves for almost a year now since the said company was issued a temporary exploration permit by the National Office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

"MMC was issued that permit because it had already submitted the required NCIP Certification and proof of consultation with the barangay concerned. Our national office was even the one that issued this permit," disclosed Charlo Basadre, mines operation officer of the Caraga Regional Office.

But protesters challenged the said proof of consultation, saying it was obtained by fraudulent means.

Reveche disclosed that last year, MMC distributed medicines to the barangay people of Anislagan and requested them to sign a document saying they have received such medicines. Reveche alleged that the signed document was now used by MMC as a proof of the people's consent to their entry.

"Our signatures were used as a proof but it is not true. Our protest actions are the real proof of our sentiments," Reveche added.

Anislagan barangay chair Rodolfo Soriano said he was made to sign a document declaring that MMC has already consulted the people. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 262,000	P 786,000	P 5,458	P 22,680	**P 28,138**	P 30,240	P 100,896
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 137,600	P 412,800	P 2,867	P 11,911	**P 14,778**	P 15,882	P 52,992
Verita	P 698,000	P 139,600	P 418,800	P 2,908	P 12,084	**P 14,992**	P 16,113	P 53,808

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Verita	P 698,000	P 29,084

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Argentina crisis worsens as IMF nixes loan

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said Wednesday it could not now recommend approval of a $1.3-billion loan for Argentina. The country sought the money to weather a financial crisis.

The international lending agency said its 24-member executive board met informally to hear a report from the head of an IMF team that was sent to Argentina two weeks ago to review the progress of economic reforms.

"Based on the findings of the mission that has been in Buenos Aires, fund management is unable at this stage to recommend completion of the review" needed to release the next loan to Argentina, the IMF said in a statement.

The IMF refusal to extend a fresh loan as part of its $22-billion support program for Argentina comes as officials in that country have struggled to avoid a default on $132 billion in foreign debt. Argentina has South America's second largest economy after Brazil.

Thomas Reichman, head of the IMF team in Argentina, returned to Washington late Monday to update top IMF officials on the team's findings.

The government of President Fernando de la Rua imposed controls on withdrawals on bank deposits over the weekend to stop a run on the country's banks, which had accelerated last week amid rumors the country was about to freeze deposits and devalue the currency.

Argentina's government had been urging the IMF to speed up release of the next $1.3-billion IMF loan installment, which it hoped to use to service its debt burden.

Many private economists believe the current financial crisis will force Argentina either to devalue its currency, which has been pegged to the US dollar, or formally adopt the dollar as the country's official currency.

Many economists believe such a move will help restore investor confidence in Argentina's economy, which is mired in a three-year-long recession.

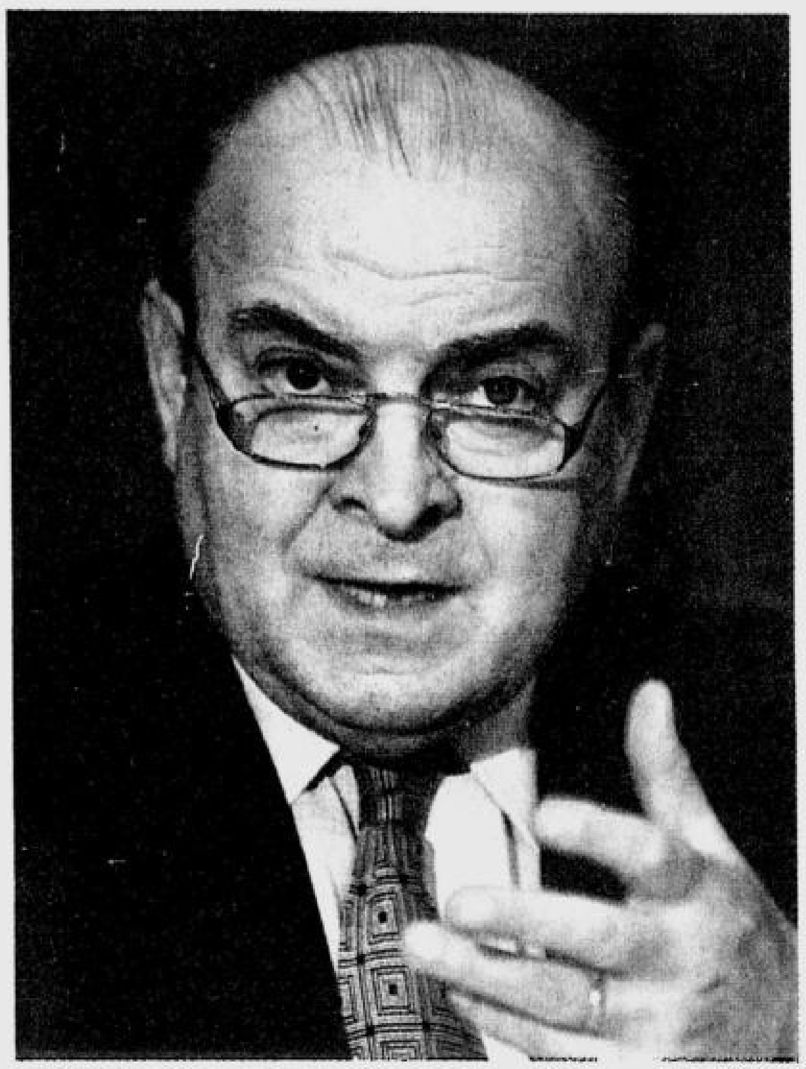
However, Argentina's government rejected both options on Wednesday, with presidential spokesman Juan Pablo Baylac insisting that the government wanted to rescue the economy without abandoning its currency regime.

Dollars and Argentine pesos have circulated side by side in the country since Argentina pegged the value of the peso at $1 in 1991 in an effort to quell triple-digit inflation.

Shortly before the IMF announcement in Washington, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo insisted during a news conference in Buenos Aires that discussions with the IMF had gone "very well." He denied that the IMF was pressuring the country to devalue the peso.

At his news conference, Cavallo announced an easing of restrictions on withdrawal of bank deposits. He said Argentines would be able to withdraw the whole $1,000 monthly limit from their accounts at one time. The original rules had limited withdrawals to $250 per week. He said that travelers could take up to $10,000 out of the country, up from the earlier limit of $1,000.

While the effort to impose limits on bank withdrawals had been intended to calm the financial crisis, private economists warned that it would raise alarm bells at the IMF about the advisability of lending more money to a country that had been forced to resort to capital controls. *AP*



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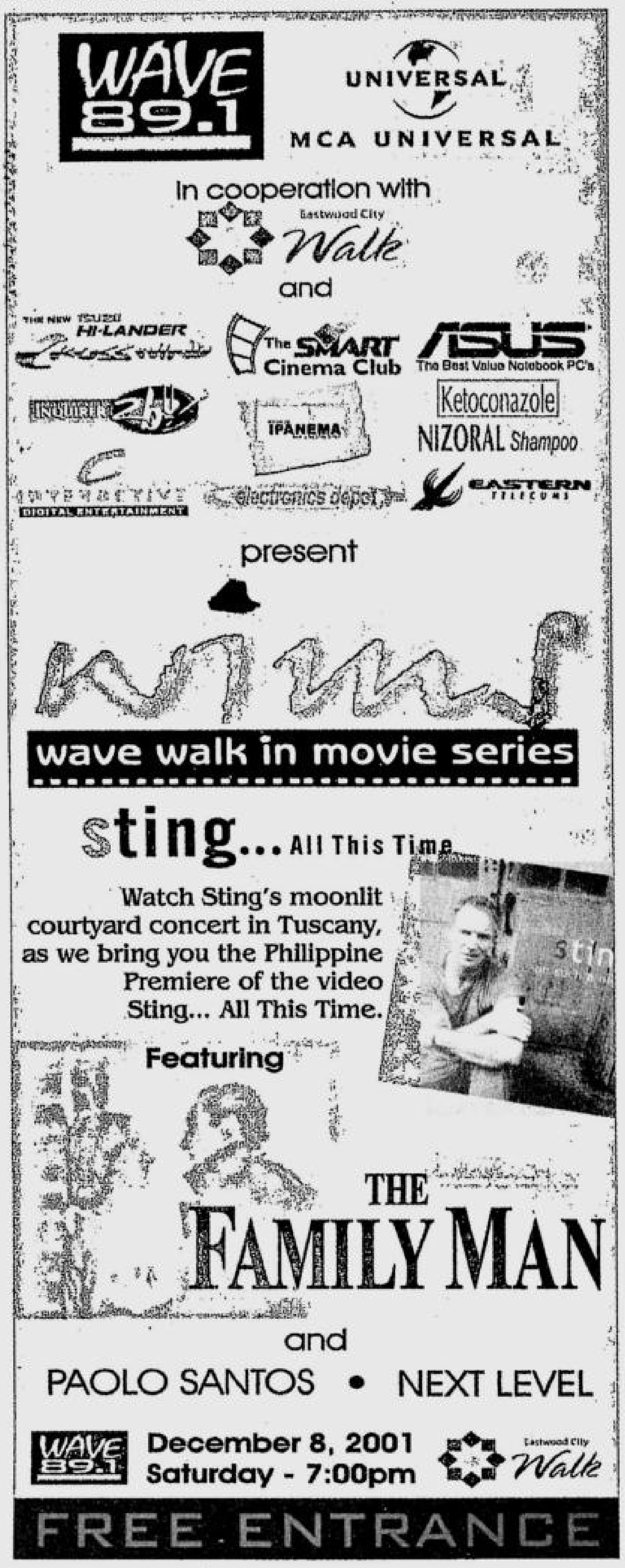

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US firms bullish on HK despite slowdown

HONG KONG—US companies operating in Hong Kong are bullish about the territory's long-term future despite the current economic slowdown, a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce showed on Thursday.

"The current economic downturn will be short lived. Hong Kong's economic fundamentals are strong and we expect an economic recovery by 2003," AmCham chair Paula DeLisle said in commenting on the results of the annual survey.

Sixty-six percent of the 354 AmCham members responding to the survey said they anticipated "good" or "satisfactory" company performances next year. Forty-nine percent intended to expand business in Hong Kong, and 41 percent planned to increase staffing levels over the next three years.

Of the 67 percent of member companies with regional head offices in Hong Kong, 82 percent planned to maintain headquarters in the territory while 25 percent aimed to increase operations.

Hong Kong's economy contracted 0.3 percent on year in the third quarter and is widely expected to post sharply negative growth in the fourth quarter.

The government has forecast flat GDP growth for the year after a stunning 10.5-percent rise in 2000. Private economists are slightly more pessimistic, on average anticipating a 0.2- to 0.3-percent fall in 2001.

AmCham said while the global economic downturn had affected Hong Kong's short-term outlook, the longer-term view remained optimistic because of the territory's structural strengths.

Survey respondents cited Hong Kong's free port status, communications network, geographical location, well-developed infrastructure and simple tax system as its key advantages.

Other positive factors included Hong Kong's legal and regulatory system, availability of high-quality personnel, and stable government and political system.

Areas in which the surveyed companies would like to see improvement were housing costs, the quality of the environment, the cost of doing business, and English-language proficiency.

AmCham said the survey also revealed that China's accession to the World Trade Organization had improved business sentiment for China trade and commerce.

AmCham said the proportion of respondents giving a "good" rating to mainland China's business environment was 79 percent compared with 71 percent in 2000.

China is expected to formally join the WTO next week. *Reuters*

HP servers still building on strong acceptance

HEWLETT-PACKARD CO. has announced that its entry-level Unix servers now include PA-8700 processors.

With a processor performance increase of nearly 40 percent over existing entry-level systems and a seamless upgrade path to future technologies, the HP Server rp5400 series is now better positioned than ever to meet customers' requirements for outstanding performance and value in demanding business environments.

Formerly known as the "L-class," the HP Server rp5400 series has seen outstanding growth with strong acceptance by global, industry-leading companies since its introduction in September 1999.

According to IDC, HP holds the No. 2 position in the entry-level Unix server business and continues to grow steadily. Demonstrating nearly four times the growth rate of IBM Corp. in this category, HP is widening the distance between the two companies in the fast-moving, entry-level race.

"Building on the recent introduction of the high-performance, PA-8700-based HP Superdome and mid-range systems, HP's Unix server line is stronger than it has ever been," said Suzette Santiago, infrastructure and systems director, HP Philippines business customer sales organization. "Now, with the rp5400 series, our customers can take full advantage of our refreshed product portfolio to enable their always-on IT environments."

HP's enterprise customers are using the rp5400 series to support demanding enterprise and Internet applications such as enterprise resource planning, supply chain management and customer relationship management. They have chosen the rp5400 series as a key component to enable their always-on Internet infrastructures.

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Singapore economic outlook set to worsen in 4th quarter

SINGAPORE—Singapore's slumping economic performance is likely to worsen in the fourth quarter of this year, a Cabinet minister said on Thursday.

"The third-quarter economic results showed that our economy contracted by 5.6 percent compared with a year ago," said Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo. "We expect the fourth quarter to be worse."

Yeo noted that Singapore's economic contraction in the first three quarters of 2001 was the worst in the city-state's 36-year history.

Yeo's remark was the first indication of how badly officials believe Singapore's economy will perform in the last quarter of the year.

The minister was speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony for the "BioPolis," a center for clinical, drug and medical devices research.

The project is part of the government's push to make Singapore a "life sciences" hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

The wealthy Southeast Asian city-state, currently in the throes of its worst-ever recession, hopes to lessen its long-standing dependence on making and exporting electronic goods. It faces a worldwide slump in demand for electronics, and increasing competition in the industry from other Asian countries. *AP*

China says 2002 exports vital to achieving 7% GDP growth

BEIJING—China said on Thursday its exports faced worse prospects than during the Asian economic crisis and that it needed to maintain measurable exports growth to help attain 7-percent economic growth in 2002.

"We will strive to expand exports next year and try to achieve measurable growth in exports," Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Sun Zhenyu told an economic conference in Beijing.

"To achieve the 7-percent economic growth target next year, exports cannot decline," Sun said.

"Next year's exports will face a more severe situation than this year and even more severe than the situation in the 1997-98 Asian economic crisis," he added.

China's exports growth has slowed this year as the world economic slump hit its major overseas markets.

Exports rose a year-on-year 6.1 percent in the first 10 months of 2001, off sharply from a sizzling 27.8-percent surge for all of last year.

China's entry to the World Trade Organization would yield benefits to exports, mainly in textiles and garments as the European Union, United States and other markets scrap quotas on those goods, Sun said. It joins the trade body on Tuesday.

China has pledged to keep annual growth above the critical 7-percent level for the next five years in order to provide jobs for millions of workers being laid off as state firms restructure.

The economy grew 7 percent in the third quarter of this year, its lowest quarterly rate since the fourth quarter of 1999.

While officials and analysts expect China to reach the 7-percent growth target in 2001, some economists have forecast growth could slip below 7 percent next year as exports markets struggle.

Sun said a key government priority was to expand domestic demand next year, and China would step up infrastructure spending next year and boost incomes. He gave no details.

China has relied on massive spending funded by government debt issues to spur growth.

Finance Minister Xiang Huaicheng has pledged to issue 150 billion yuan in special bonds next year to spur growth, the same level of issuance as in 2001.

Economic Restructuring Office of the State Council deputy director Li Jiange told the conference on Thursday the government's special bond issue next year would roughly match that for 2001 but he did not elaborate. *Reuters*

Toys R Us Asia to march into China by end-2002

HONG KONG—Toy retail king Toys R Us Asia Ltd. plans to set up outlets in the mainland cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou by the end of 2002 in a move to tap China's growing affluence and appetite for toys.

The first stores would set the pace in the company's gradual expansion in the country, where robust domestic demand has kept the economy relatively insulated from the global downturn.

"It's not impossible to open 50 to 100 stores (in China) within two years, but we don't have a specific target as yet. We'd like to see how things go at the first few stores," regional managing director Larry Sze told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.

Toys R Us Asia originally intended to enter the Chinese market by the end of 2001 but decided to put its plan on hold until Beijing officially joins the World Trade Organization.

"This is because we'd like to get a retailer license to run our business," said Sze.

"It would give us more flexibility in the future: We could either run the business by ourselves or work with local partners."

China's formal entry to the trade body expected next week would lead to the eventual relaxation of equity and geographical restrictions on foreign retailers.

Toys R Us Asia is a joint venture between the world's largest toy retailer, Toys R Us Inc. and Li & Fung (Retailing) which is privately held by the family of Victor Fung, chair of Li & Fung Ltd.

China has long been a major producer of toys for the world but is expected to be a growing toy consumer as its economy expands.

"We've done some studies on the potential of the market and it's amazing," said Sze.

The concept of a specialty toy store in the country, where space is less of a constraint compared with Hong Kong, should also appeal.

"Because of the nature of our business, a lot of developers have expressed their interest and we have a good choice of sites," he said.

The company also plans to establish operations in Thailand, Brunei and the Philippines in 2002, Sze said.

Toys R Us Asia now runs 26 outlets in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia.

The global downturn, coupled with the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, have eroded consumer confidence this year and taken a toll on retailers worldwide.

But some US retailers say the toy sector could hold up better than some others as parents go to extra lengths to create a happy holiday season in the aftermath of the attacks.

Reuters

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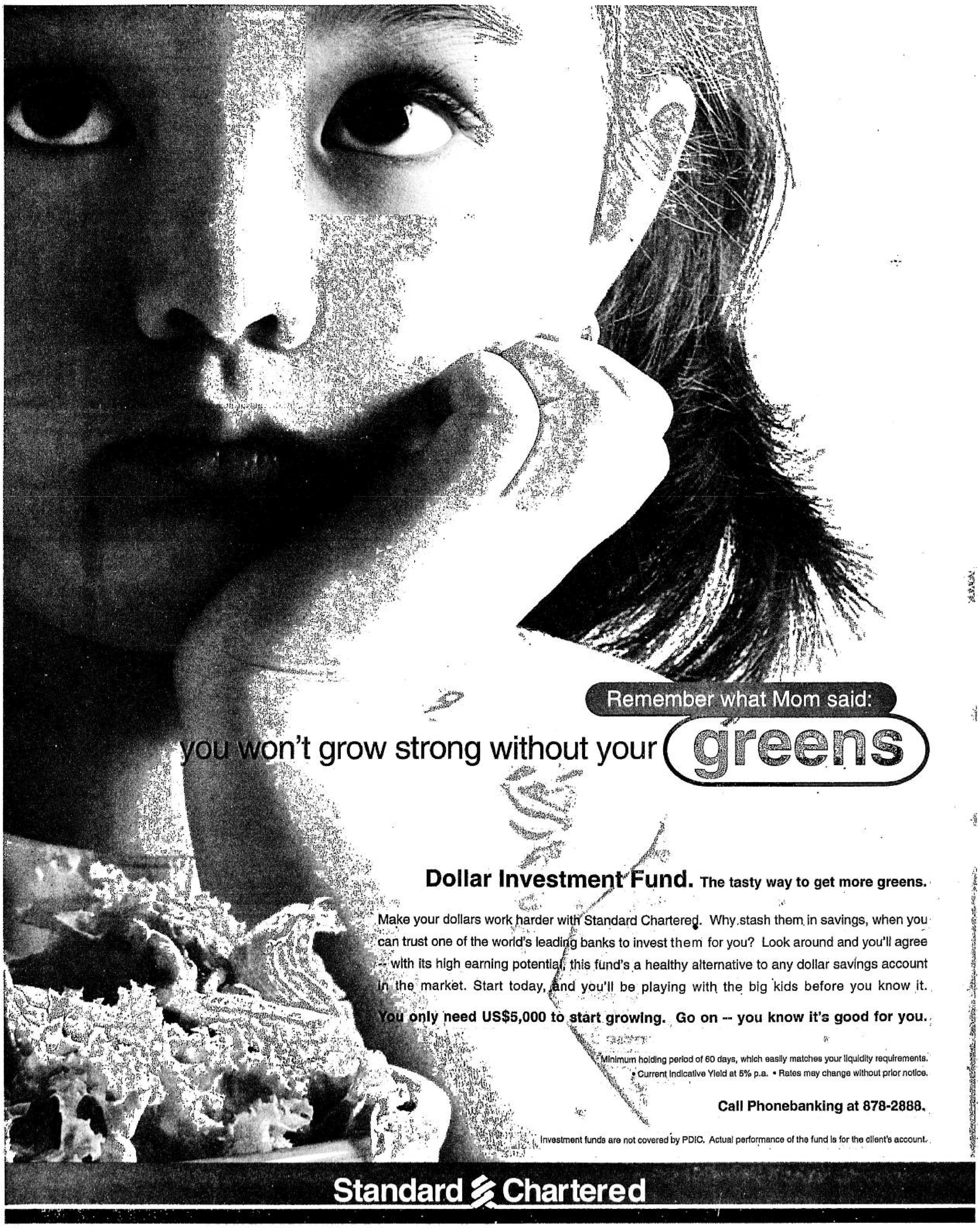
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **JESUS E. MACARAEG** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc.No.156 Page 32 Book No. XVII Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin O. Mergas of Tarlac City(PDI-Nov.23,30 & Dec.7,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSEFINA Z. SANTOS** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Aug. 17, 2001 under Doc# 156, Page# 33, Book# 1, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Andres C. Ocampo of Makati City.(PDI-11/23, 30 & 12/7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NARCISO C. VALLE** was extrajudicially settled among His heirs per Doc.#795, Page #159, Book #XIV Series of 2001 of notary public Atty. Amado E. Villafuerte of Quezon City
(PDI-Nov.23, 30 & Dec.7,2001)

The heirs of **JUAN A. SARMIENTO** have executed a deed of extrajudicial partition w/ waiver of rights for his estate before Notary Public Patricio Boncayao Jr. of Muntinlupa City under Doc. 304; Page 62; Book 49; Series of 2001.
(PDI-Dec. 7, 14 & 21, 2001)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all registered Health Maintenance Organizations to participate in the rebidding for the Executive Health Care Program for 138 Executives for Year 2002. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

December 7 & 10, 2001	- Issuance of List of Pre-qualification Requirements
December 11, 2001	- Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
December 13, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
December 14, 2001 (11:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
December 18, 2001 (9:15 - 10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	Opening of bid proposals

Those who were previously pre-qualified during the bidding held last **November 6, 2001** are automatically qualified to participate in the rebidding. Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Dec. 6 & 7, 2001)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following
Application Forms for Life Insurance of MetLife Philippines, Inc. (MetLife Philippines)
were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

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0002 0007 0009 0010 0042 0043 0047 0049 0050 0052 0053 0054 0055 0056 0062 0063 0064 0065 0066 0067 0091 0095 0096
0142 0143 0144 0145 0146 0152 0153 0154 0167 0168 0169 0170 0171 0175 0184 0192 0194 0202 0203 0204 0208 0209 0225
0226 0227 0228 0229 0235 0237 0238 0239 0247 0248 0249 0511 0519 0520 0521 0522 0523 0525 0541 0571 0572 0593 0598
0608 0621 0622 0623 0624 0625 0626 0628 0641 0644 0649 0664 0665 0666 0667 0668 0670 0671 0684 0685 0686 0687 0688
0691 0695 0699 0700 0701 0702 0703 0704 0708 0709 0710 0711 0712 0713 0714 0715 0716 0717 0718 0719 0731 0732 0736
0746 0747 0750 0751 0752 0759 0774 0777 0778 0779 0785 0791 0794 0795 0796 0797 0798 0801 0802 0803 0806 0820 0821
0822 0823 0824 0825 0826 0827 0857 0858 0861 0862 0867 0885 0900 0901 0902 0904 0908 0909 0927 0928 0929 0930 0931
0938 0939 0940 0941 0942 0948 0979 0980 0993 1001 1002 1029 1037 1053 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1084 1085
1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1098 1099 1104 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120 1136 1137 1138 1139 1140 1141 1142 1143
1144 1145 1146 1147 1148 1149 1150 1151 1152 1153 1154 1270 1271 1274

Any transaction entered with the Company using the above application forms will not be honored.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following
Application Forms for Life Insurance of MetLife Philippines, Inc.
(MetLife Philippines) were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

Universal Life Policy Application Form Nos.:

000015 000076 000077 000078 000087 000088 000089 000090 000091 000102 000103 000104 000105 000106
000108 000109 000110 000111 000127 000128 000129 000130 000131 000150 000158 000163 000166 000167
000168 000170 000184 000185 000192 000193 000205 000209 000215 000219 000220 000224 000225 000226
000227 000228 000229 000238 000244 000247 000251 000265 000266 000267 000294 000295 000302 000303
000310 000312 000313 000314 000315 000340 000341 000383 000388 000389 000390 000391 000392 000393
000394 000395 000396 000397 000429 000433 000439 000449 000450 000461 000465 000466 000467 000473
000474 000480 000482 000483 000484 000485 000486 000487 000488 000489 000490 000491 000492 000493
000494 000495 000496 000501 000502 000503 000504 000505 000536 000552 000553 000554 000555 000556
000557 000558 000559 000560 000561 000562 000563 000564 000565

Any transaction entered with the Company using the above application forms will not be honored.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

NHI Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila
P.O. Box 3390, Manila

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, SG-08, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-ADA-1-1998. Completion of two years studies in college; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; CS Sub-Professional / First Level Eligibility.

COMPUTER OPERATOR I, SG-07, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-COMPO1-1-1998. Completion of two years studies in college or high school graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; CS Subprofessional / Data Encoder / MC 11, s. 1996 - Category I / First Level Eligibility.

CASH CLERK I, SG-04, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-CHC1-1-1998. Completion of two years studies in college; CS Sub-Professional / First Level Eligibility.

UTILITY WORKER II, SG-3, Item Nos. NHI-NCCAC-UTW2-3-1998. Must be able to read and write.

** In compliance only with RA 7041, subject to AO 5, s. 2001 and for chain promotion/appointment purposes only.*

WANTED

A Makati Restaurant invites suppliers of food items (rice, sugar, meat, seafood, vegetables, fruits, etc.)

Applications for employment of cooks, waiters and other restaurant personnel are welcome.

MALOU CORTEZ
Food & Beverage Supervisor
1784 Dian Street, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 550-1322 & 550-1323
Fax No. 550-1324

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that **PRESENTACION V. SARSAGAT** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Mizzen Shipping Enterprises, Inc. as of December 22, 1999. She was terminated with cause and is now facing criminal charges for 2 counts Qualified Theft under case no. 00-1383/1384 before Branch 64 of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

(PDI -- Dec. 7, 2001)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Toll Regulatory Board
(Grantor)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
(Grantee)

Notice is hereby given that the Toll Regulatory Board approved the toll rate increase of Philippine National Construction Corporation for the North Luzon Expressway from Balintawak to Sta. Ines and the South Luzon Expressway from Alabang to Calamba. The adjusted toll rate shall be published by the Grantee in a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Per Board Resolution No. 2001-62, the following rates will be implemented on January 01, 2002.

A. NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	2.00											
Valenzuela	3.00											
Lawang Bato	3.00	1.00										
Meycauayan	4.00	2.00										
St. Francis	4.00	2.00										
Marilao	5.00	3.00	2.00									
Bocaue	6.00	4.00	3.00	2.00								
Balagtas	8.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00							
Guiguinto	9.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	3.00							
Tabang	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	1.00						
Sta. Rita	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	4.00							
Pulilan	12.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	6.00		3.00					
San Simon	16.00	14.00	13.00	12.00	10.00		7.00	4.00				
San Fernando	19.00	17.00	16.00	15.00	13.00		10.00	7.00	3.00			
Angeles	24.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	18.00		15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00		
Dau	25.00	23.00	21.00	20.00	19.00		15.00	13.00	9.00	6.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	27.00	25.00	23.00	22.00	21.00		17.00	15.00	11.00	8.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1w/ Trailer, Class 1-7ft. & above ht.

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAO
Mapulang Lupa	4.00											
Valenzuela	5.00											
Lawang Bato	6.00	2.00										
Meycauayan	8.00	4.00										
St. Francis	8.00	4.00										
Marilao	10.00	6.00	3.00									
Bocaue	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00								
Balagtas	16.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	4.00							
Guiguinto	17.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	5.00							
Tabang	19.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	7.00	2.00						
Sta. Rita	20.00	16.00	13.00	11.00	8.00							
Pulilan	24.00	20.00	17.00	15.00	12.00		5.00					
San Simon	32.00	28.00	25.00	23.00	20.00		13.00	8.00				
San Fernando	38.00	34.00	31.00	29.00	26.00		19.00	14.00	6.00			
Angeles	48.00	44.00	41.00	39.00	36.00		29.00	24.00	17.00	11.00		
Dau	50.00	46.00	42.00	40.00	38.00		30.00	26.00	18.00	12.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	53.00	49.00	46.00	44.00	41.00		34.00	29.00	22.00	16.00	6.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	6.00											
Valenzuela	7.00											
Lawang Bato	9.00	3.00										
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00										
St. Francis	12.00	6.00										
Marilao	15.00	8.00	4.00									
Bocaue	18.00	12.00	8.00	4.00								
Balagtas	23.00	17.00	13.00	9.00	5.00							
Guiguinto	25.00	19.00	15.00	11.00	8.00							
Tabang	28.00	22.00	17.00	14.00	10.00	3.00						
Sta. Rita	30.00	23.00	19.00	16.00	12.00							
Pulilan	36.00	30.00	26.00	22.00	18.00		7.00					
San Simon	48.00	42.00	37.00	34.00	30.00		19.00	12.00				
San Fernando	57.00	51.00	46.00	43.00	39.00		28.00	21.00	9.00			
Angeles	72.00	66.00	61.00	58.00	54.00		43.00	36.00	25.00	16.00		
Dau	74.00	68.00	63.00	60.00	56.00		45.00	38.00	27.00	18.00	3.00	
Sta. Ines	80.00	73.00	69.00	65.00	62.00		50.00	44.00	32.00	23.00	8.00	6.00

B. SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	2.00							
Susana Heights	2.00	2.00						
Southwoods	4.00	4.00	2.00					
Carmona	5.00	5.00	3.00	1.00				
Mamplasan	6.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00			
Sta. Rosa	7.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Cabuyao	10.00	9.00	8.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	
Silangan	10.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	1.00
Calamba	12.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	3.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/ Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAL	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	4.00							
Susana Heights	4.00	3.00						
Southwoods	9.00	8.00	5.00					
Carmona	10.00	9.00	6.00	1.00				
Mamplasan	12.00	11.00	8.00	4.00	2.00			
Sta. Rosa	14.00	13.00	10.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	19.00	18.00	15.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	
Silangan	20.00	19.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	1.00
Calamba	25.00	24.00	21.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	5.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	CAB
Alabang								
Filinvest	6.00							
Susana Heights	6.00	5.00						
Southwoods	13.00	12.00	7.00					
Carmona	15.00	14.00	9.00	2.00				
Mamplasan	19.00	17.00	13.00	5.00	3.00			
Sta. Rosa	22.00	20.00	16.00	8.00	6.00	3.00		
Cabuyao	29.00	27.00	23.00	15.00	13.00	10.00	7.00	
Silangan	31.00	29.00	24.00	17.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	2.00
Calamba	37.00	35.00	31.00	24.00	22.00	18.00	15.00	8.00

Note: Any interested expressway user shall have the right to file within a period of ninety (90) days after the date of publication of this order a petition with the TRB (2nd Floor, IBP Building, Doña Juana Vargas Avenue, Pasig City for a review of the toll rates.

SO ORDERED, November 30, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
(6347) 252-4214/4124, Fax (6347) 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS
"AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1) Assorted Scrap Material from Subic Water	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2) Assorted Scrap Material at Building 148 Yard	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 3) Assorted Unserviceable Furniture and Appliances at Building 1434 and 222	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 4) Assorted Restaurant Equipment at the Old McDonald Building	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, Second Floor, Building 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

II. Deadline for submission of the Pre-qualification Papers is on December 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 PM). No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on December 17, 2001, Thursday (3:00 PM).

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1 and 2) December 13, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3 and 4) December 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

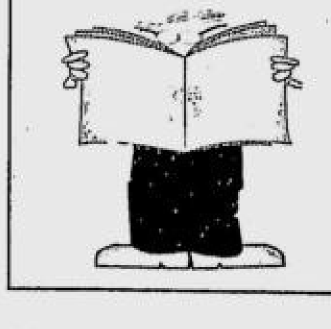
VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4283 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 6th Day of December 2001.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operations
Chairman - Disposal Committee

(PDI -- Dec. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)



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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/eligibility for the Replacement of Fixed Theater Seats - PICC Plenary Hall. Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required to perform : (a) dismantling of existing fixed theater seats and hauling to the designated storage; (b) preparation of a complete seating plans; (c) complete installation of new theater seats; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should be a seating contractor for the past 10 years (reckoned from October 1991) specializing in the manufacture, assembly and distribution of seating furniture for commercial installations/ systems furniture.

2.0 Local supplier should have supplied and installed locally at least a total of 1,500 theater seats with at least 900 seats installed in one project.

3.0 The contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least a total of P35.5 Million computed as follows : NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started.

4.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance (for the 2 biggest theater seats projects) signed by the client's and design consultant's authorized signatories. In case of in-house design, the approved signatories shall be the designer and the Head of the design/infrastructure department of approved equal. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.

5.0 Must be able to submit a demo unit and accomplish the Prequalification Statements/ Documents to be issued by the AHCPP Secretariat.

6.0 In case where the local supplier is a distributor of the theater seats, the local supplier should have had for the past 2-1/2 years (reckoned from January 1999) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the theater seats to be used for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2003; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.

7.0 The manufacturer of the theater seats should be ISO 9000 certified.

8.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit.

9.0 Y2000 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2000 Income Tax Return

Prequalification Statements/Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance of is on Dec. 07 to 11, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn. Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200/set). Deadline for submission of Prequalification Documents is on Decembert 26, 2001.

Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility shall be issued on January 10, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents to eligible/ prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P2,000.00/ set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/ indemnify the contractor for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Vicente B. Valdepeñas Jr.
Chairman

(Sgd.) Juan Quintos Jr.
Co-Chairman

(PDI--Dec. 7 & 10, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Renovation and Extension of the Bangko Sentral Cotabato Branch (Phase 2)
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all testing and other operations necessary for the construction and completion of the project all in accordance with the requirements of the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the Contract.
Project Location : BSP - Cotabato Branch Sinsuat corner Quezon Avenue, Cotabato City
Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Million Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two and 26/100 (P20,507,202.26)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
  PCAB License/IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Building and Industrial Plant) for the past three (3) consecutive years
  Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project : Has completed in the past three (3) years at least three (3) construction/renovation projects of similar Architectural and Engineering (A&E) works one of which costs not less than Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P10,500,000.00) such as construction/renovation involving architectural (including finishing, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical works of commercial or institutional buildings requiring medium to high end finishes and good workmanship (projects may include offices, commercial centers, educational institutions, hotels and other of similar or greater complexity to the BSP's required project).
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirements : Pesos Two Million Fifty Thousand (P 2,050,000.00)
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms
  Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
  Date and Time of Issuance : December 07 to 21, 2001, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents : PBAC Secretariat, Room 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 loc. 3143) Second Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (formerly V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
  Deadline of Submission : January 4, 2002, 4:00 PM
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
  Date and Time of Issuance : January 24, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Room 204
Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
  Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance : Five Thousand Pesos per set (P5,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat, Room 204
  Date and Time of Issuance : January 24 to 25, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference
  Date and Time : February 4, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
  Venue : BMD Conference Room, Second Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
  Deadline/Venue of Submission : February 25, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission / Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibility.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice for eligibility/ineligibility up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO JR.
Chairman

(PDI -- Dec. 7, 15 & 20, 2001)

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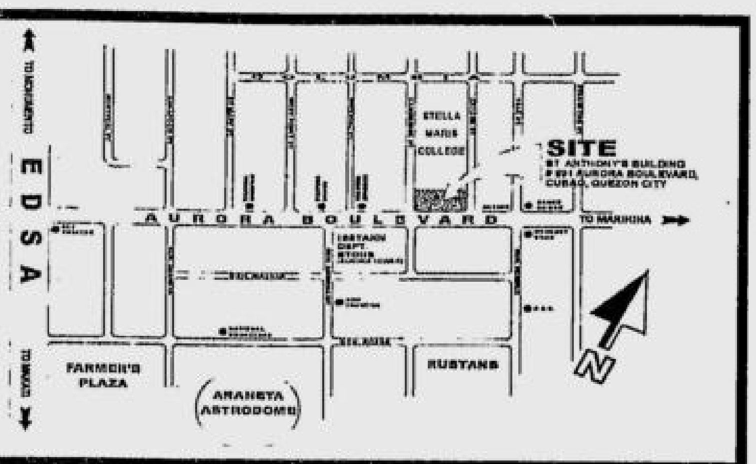

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"Silence my soul
These trees are prayer.
I asked the tree
Tell me about God
Then it blossomed."
Rabrindranath Tagore

MAXIMO T. KALAW, JR.
(JUNIE)

Died November 1, 2001 in New York City
and now dwells in Wholeness, Kabuuan, with his Creator.

His cremated remains will be brought to the Lower Chapel, St. James Church, Cuenca Street, Ayala Alabang on Monday, December 10, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. followed by interment in the crypt of the same church.

His family and loved ones request the pious reader to pray for his eternal repose.

In his memory, donations to the
"MAXIMO T. KALAW INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"
will be appreciated.

Our Ever Dearest Inang

LELIS YUSON OLARTE VINLUAN

Peacefully joined her Creator
on December 1, 2001 at the age of 89.

Her late husband **Numeriano Macam Vinluan**; loving children & in-laws **Nuromeo & Auring, Lavinia & Rolando** (†), **Ludivina, Lily & Gil, Numeriano Jr.** (†), **Nestor & Lyn, Lucrea & Antonio**; sister **Araceli de Veyra**; and brother-in-law **Turiano de Veyra**; grandchildren **Lara, Jason, Leah, Maritess & Gary, Maribern & John, Maribeth, Ronald & Kelly, Al, Lel & Nikki, Paulo, Liv,** and **Anthony**; great grandchildren **Aidan, Nina, Alexa, Grant, Cole, Alexandra**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 8, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

"God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be
So He closed His arms around you
And whispered, 'Come to Me.'"

JOSE "JOE" LLORENTE SAYO

Founder of Clean City, Inc.

Joined his Creator on December 5, 2001

His bereaved wife **Ma. Corazon "Koni" Samson**; son **Michael "Miko"**; daughter-in-law **Ma. Danette Nubla**; his sisters **Tessie** (†), **Margarita** (†), **Luisita** (†), and **Carmen**; his brothers **Jaime**, **Alan "Cholo"**, and **Anton**; in-laws **Opi Padua**, **Johnny Ras**, and **Ma. Carmencita "Mitay" Abola**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz (Chapel A, North Wing), Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until December 8, 2001, 12:00 noon, and will be transferred to the Holy Garden Memorial Chapel, Angono, Rizal.

Interment will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the family mausoleum.

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DR. JOSE VER MADAMBA

(Retired Physician at Veterans Memorial Medical Center)
of Dingras, Ilocos Norte & Cubao, Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator
on December 1, 2001 at the age of 94.

His loving wife **Melba** (†); children **Dr. Marianing & Dra. Linda Sese, Augusto & Olive Edralin, Cely & Jun Marcelo, Horacio & Cora Pizarro** (†), **Medy & Dr. Melo Casia, Felipe & Anna Caraballo**, grand & great grandchildren; sister **Crescenciana M. Vda. De Albano**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter's Memorial Chapel and shall be transferred to their ancestral house at Brgy. Madamba, Dingras, Ilocos Norte on Friday dawn, December 7, 2001.

Interment shall be at Dingras Municipal Cemetery after an 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish Church.

"I love the house where you live,
O Lord, the place where your glory dwells."
Psalm 26:8

In Loving Memory
of
Our Beloved

Abraham "Bobit" Cruz Domingo

on the 2nd anniversary of his Passage to Eternal Life
on December 7, 1999

You are forever in our hearts.

Our sincerest gratitude to friends, relatives and loved ones who continue to pray for his eternal repose.

"To Live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."
Thomas Campbell

LERIZA DESIREE (ISHIE) RAQUIZA Y MELENDRES

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 4, 2001
at 11:45 p.m. at the age of 17.

Her parents **Marisa Melendres** and **Levy Raquiza** and brothers **Mikael**, **Levy II** and **Marcello**; friends, relatives and classmates request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Holy Trinity Chapels along D. Santos Ave. (formerly Sucat), Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial on Sunday, December 9, 2001.

Fourteenth Death Anniversary
of

JAIME V. ONGPIN

June 15, 1938 - December 7, 1987

Masses for the repose of his soul will be said in the usual churches today.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 522-3151 / 522-2128
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City • Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City, Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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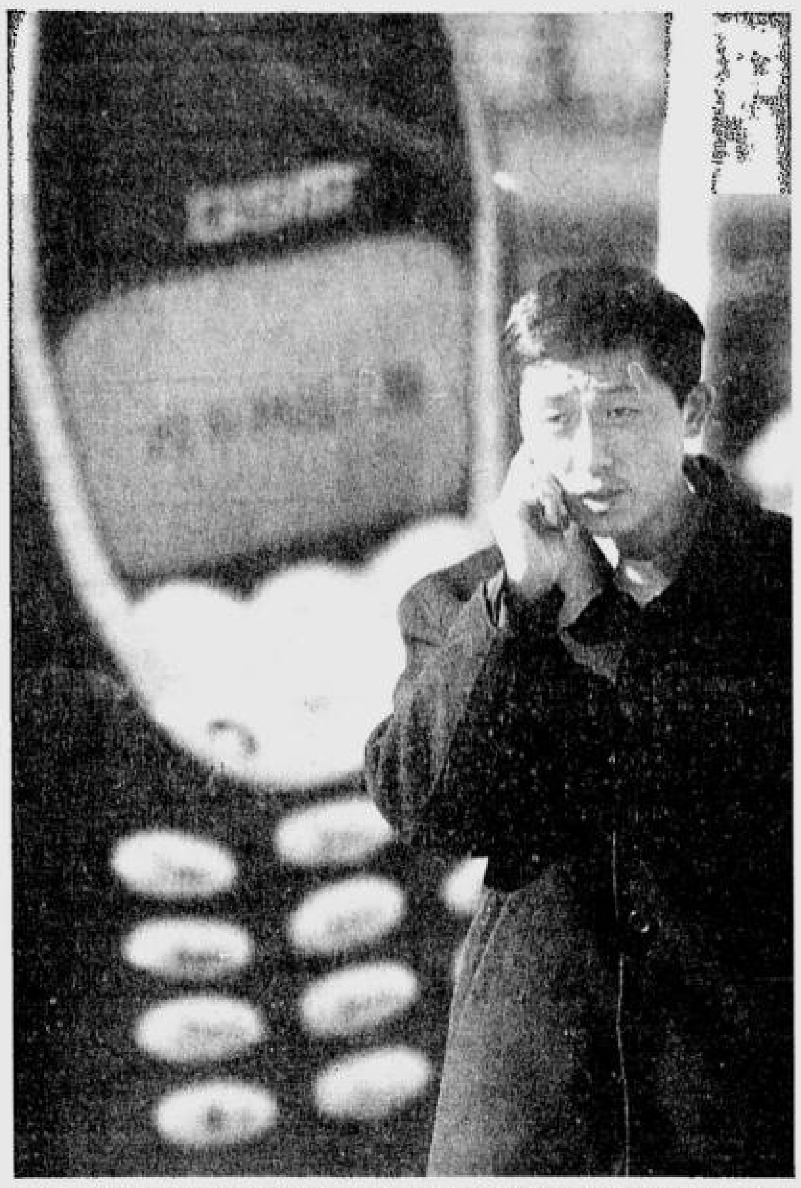


A MAN uses his mobile phone near a giant replica of a Nokia unit in Beijing. China Mobile (HK) Ltd. plans to buy eight provincial mobile phone operations from its parent company, China Mobile Communications Corp., in a deal that analysts expect could cost up to $14 billion. AP

Ford issues earnings warning, sets shake-up

DEARBORN, Michigan—Ford Motor Co., reeling from the worst financial crunch in a decade, warned Wednesday of deeper-than-expected fourth-quarter losses as it tries to ride out the US recession and difficult conditions globally.

The world's No. 2 automaker predicted that operating losses would amount to 50 cents a share before one-time items, or about $900 million, because of higher repossession rates sparked by the tight economy.

The company's repossession rate increased by 6 percent in the third quarter from the same period a year earlier, and the company is making financial provisions for further losses in its car-leasing business in the new year, Ford chief financial officer Martin Inglis said in a teleconference.

"In this environment, we think it prudent to increase our credit loss reserves," he said.

Inglis said Ford would also suspend the dividend paid by its Ford Credit unit to its parent company—an estimated $100 million to $150 million—as a one-time event in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, although the company reported strong November sales this week, up more than 4 percent on November 2000, the cost of the marketing incentives driving those sales continues to drag down Ford's bottom line, Inglis said.

The automaker has narrowed the scope of its zero-percent financing deals—introduced to stimulate demand after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks sent the US economy into a tailspin—but is unable to pull back from them altogether for competitive reasons.

"If the level of marketing throughout the industry would de-escalate, I would be very happy," Inglis said, "but we're in a very competitive business and we can't get so far away from the competition or we would lose total momentum and go into an uncontrolled slide in market share.

"So we're trying to get a balance between volume and incentives."

The automaker's fourth quarter—its third consecutive quarter in the red—could be its worst yet, with losses easily topping $1.5 billion.

In addition to its estimated $900-million operating loss, it will take a one-time charge of $700 million to cover the cost of up to 5,000 white-collar voluntary redundancies announced in August this year. *AFP*

AOL Time Warner chief executive to retire

NEW YORK—Gerald Levin, an architect of the deal that created the world's No. 1 media company, AOL Time Warner, said Wednesday he would step down as chief executive in May—far sooner than Wall Street or his collengues anticipated.

Levin will be succeeded by co-chief operating officer Richard Parsons, who joins a very small list of African-Americans running major US companies. In his new role, Parsons, who edged out co-COO Robert Pittman for the top spot, is expected to finish the job Levin started of melding the old- and new-media sides of the business.

AOL Time Warner also said Pittman, who helped create MTV, would be the sole chief operating officer following the reorganization.

All the division heads at the company, whose array of properties range from the nation's No. 2 cable system, 24-hour news network CNN, the world's largest Internet service provider, magazines such as Time and People and artists like Madonna and Kid Rock—will report to Pittman.

Most analysts said they had expected Levin, creator of the HBO network, to remain with the company for several more years.

"Everyone's trying to figure out the timing of it. It has nothing to do with any business activity or transaction," Levin, 62, told Reuters in an interview.

Once he retires, Levin plans to speak out on moral and social issues as well as pursue his "sensitive, creative side," writing a book or a movie.

America Online founder Steve Case will remain chair of the company that was created by AOL's $106.20 billion purchase of Time Warner in a deal that was completed in January.

The companies' merger brought together a young Internet company and an old-world media company, melding a culture of suits and ties with one of khakis and button-downs and many analysts believe Parsons, 53, known as a consensus builder, may be the best person to finish up what Levin started.

"I'm the guy who walks behind the parade with the shovel cleaning up," Parsons, one of Levin's top deputies at Time Warner, said with a chuckle in a phone interview. "And, to some extent, that part will stay the same." *Reuters*

'Goner' spreads globally

SAN FRANCISCO—"Goner," a destructive computer virus, was ripping through computers around the world Wednesday as PC users booted up their computers and began reading their e-mail.

Computers across Australia, Europe and Asia were hit with the bug, technically known as a "worm."

Goner works by entering a computer via an e-mail attachment. When a user opens the attachment, the worm enters the user's e-mail address book and then sends itself out to other users.

Left behind is a program that begins erasing data files.

Goner also tries to deactivate computer anti-virus programs by erasing the applications' data files.

"It's a particularly nasty worm," said Vincent Weafer, a director with the anti-virus software company Symantec.

"We're seeing infections around the world. It's following the dateline. As people go into work, they open their inboxes and start answering their mail, opening up attachments. Then—wham—they get hit."

Symantec, like other anti-virus companies around the globe, is receiving reports of hundreds of thousands of computer infections.

Experts said Asia had yet to feel the brunt of the infections, which analysts say could be because warnings were received in those countries before the virus could be passed on to them.

The worm also infects computers via instant messaging, now a very popular way for users to send real-time

After attack, more, cheaper apartments in 'Big Apple'

NEW YORK—There are now more cheap and available apartments and condos in New York City as the reverberations from the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, the layoff wave hitting Wall Street and a recession take their toll.

Indeed, it is a "buyer's market" as the number of apartments for rent and sale in the Big Apple has mushroomed in recent weeks as the playing field tilted in favor of renters and those seeking co-ops and condominiums.

Landlords and sellers, in addition to lowering prices, have offered incentives like absorbing broker fees and throwing lavish open houses to attract renters and buyers, executives at the city's top realtors said.

While it is nowhere near an exodus from the wounded city that is driving this real estate flip-flop, the confluence has been created by business closures and relocations, families uprooted because of damaged homes and some concerned city dwellers looking for safer abodes.

"Buyers are the new cowboys in town. They are in charge now," said Scott Durkin, chief operating officer at The Corcoran Group. "We were seeing a softening already. The attacks just gave it speed."

Asking prices for co-ops and condos have dropped 7 to 20 percent from their market peaks, according to real estate executives interviewed by Reuters. The drop in apartment rental prices has been less severe, anywhere between 3 to 15 percent.

The once sizzling and lofty New York City real estate market has cooled and come off its high, even as demand remains firm with buyers still lining up, spurred on by low mortgage interest rates.

"It's a more normal market. It's more sane," said Peter Marra, president of William B. May Co.

"It is back to the basics of real estate," said Ken Mallan, executive vice president, sales director at Insignia Douglas Elliman's Hudson Street office in Tribeca. "Two years ago, it was a seller's market. List it and it will sell."

Last week, 317 apartments were put up for sale, compared with 138 for the week a year earlier, and 306 new rentals were listed against 160 for the same time a year ago.

Also, the number of listings that cut prices last week was more than double from a year ago, according to The Corcoran Group.

"I have a sense there has been an uptick in listings as well. People may consider to sell because of a recession as well as Sept. 11," said Mallan, who spoke from his office in Tribeca, a lower Manhattan neighborhood north of the World Trade Center.

Tribeca has been a neighborhood hard hit by the attacks. Apartment sales in the once-coveted area have shown life only recently after grinding to a halt after Sept. 11th.

"That market just died, but it looks like it's coming back," Marra said. *Reuters*

US business leaders' chorus: We love NY

NEW YORK—The chiefs of 13 New York-based firms appear in a television advertisement launched Wednesday, declaring their undying love and devotion to the city and seeking to encourage businesses to remain there or to move there from elsewhere.

Confronted with the risk of firms fleeing to the suburbs or to the neighboring state of New Jersey in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks—which brought the city's landmark twin World Trade Center towers crashing to the ground—state Governor George Pataki called on high-profile business leaders to utter, on camera, the time-honored phrase: "I love New York."

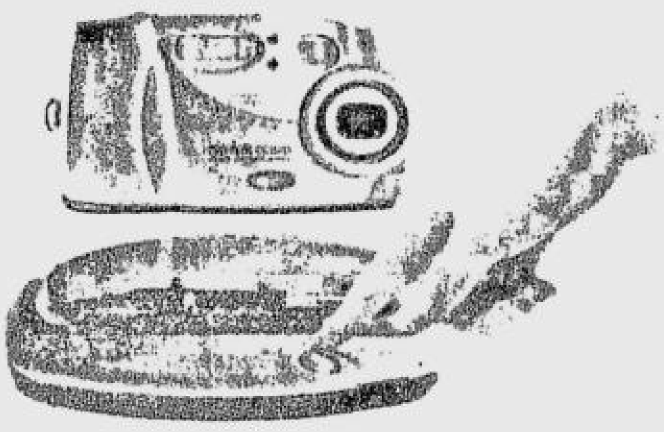
"This is an unstoppable city, a city of endless courage, drive and determination. This city has made our business what it is; it helped build us," Kenneth Chenault, chief executive of American Express, says in the commercial.

"Now it needs us," says Richard Grasso, chair of the New York Stock Exchange.

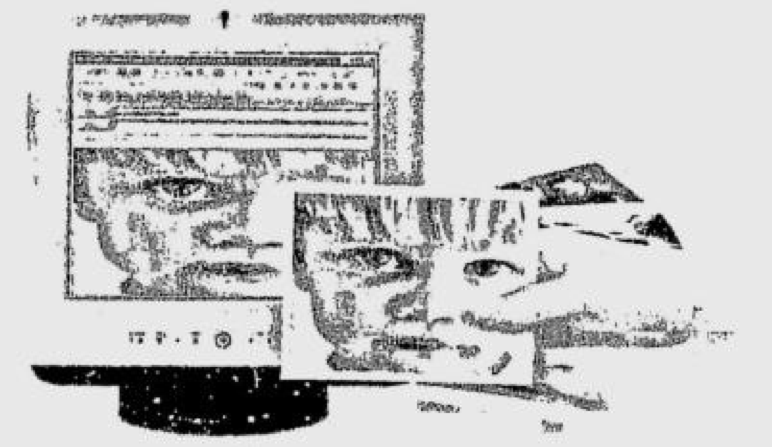
"So we make this pledge: We will be here. Not just because we owe it, but because we love it. Why should we leave it? I love New York," the heads of HSBC bank and the Bloomingdale's department store, among others, add in a montage of clips.

Pataki concludes the commercial himself by assuring businesses: "We will be your partner in building your business right here in New York."

Many of the firms that had been based in the 110-story trade center towers or in the surrounding area left the city after their offices were destroyed or damaged. *AFP*



One Touch.

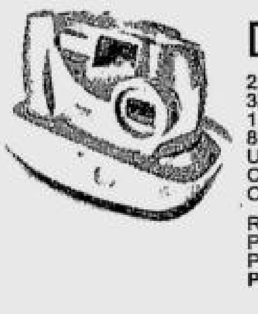


And keep in touch.

Sharing joyous moments with loved ones is now as easy as a touch of a button with the new Kodak EasyShare System. Just shoot pictures, load the camera into the Kodak Camera Dock and touch a button. And in seconds, your pictures are sent to your computer. Print them or send them to family and friends all over the world.

The Kodak EasyShare System, one touch keeps you in touch.

The **Kodak** EasyShare System



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Comes with Kodak
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Captures Digital
Video w/ Audio
1.8 LCD Screen
8 MB Internal Memory
USB Connectivity
Comes with Kodak
Camera Dock
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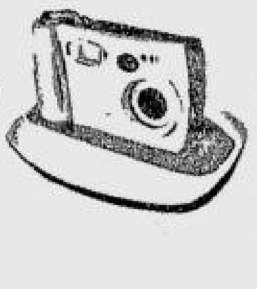

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People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Keppel Properties plays part in supporting RP economy

IN THESE times of uncertainty, the Philippines has found an ally in Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. in its bid to strengthen the economy.

Ever since it started operations in the country a couple of years ago as a subsidiary of Keppel Land Limited of Singapore, KPP has infused into the country's coffers millions of pesos in the form of business investments and other contributions.

Despite the slumberous economy, KPP continues to undertake viable high-finance real estate projects, convinced that things will eventually turn for the better.

"Our presence in the Philippines is proof of our continued confidence in the government and economy. All it takes is a good boost" as stated by Lawrence Peh, country head of KPP in a recent interview.

In the housing sector, KPP is currently developing Palmdale Heights, its first middle income residential condominium project in a joint venture with Phinma Property Holdings Corp.

Palmdale Heights is designed to address the need for an affordable condo living in a self-contained community. It is conveniently located right in the heart of Pasig City and is easily accessible from the Ortigas Center, Greenhills Commercial Center and Makati City. What makes the project outstanding are the amenities that go with it, such as the clubhouse, swimming pools, playgrounds, basketball courts and commercial establishments.

In the retail sector business, KPP tied up with Shoemart (SM) to create the latest lifestyle-centered SMKL Retail Podium in Ortigas. It is due to open by the end of the year. Once opened, the SMKL Retail Podium is to be known as "The Podium", expected to attract shoppers because of its strategic location, new lifestyle shopping concept.

With these projects and more to come, KPP aims to become one of the Philippines' premier property developers and an ally of the government in providing opportunities to Filipino people.

PHILAMLIFE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CHARAGEN

Philamlife, the largest and most diversified life insurance company in the Philippines, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Charagen International Corp. for the promotion, marketing and selling to the public of Philamlife's Group 24 Hour Plus insurance product. With this tie-up, Charagen customers shall enjoy the benefits of both Philamlife's accident insurance product and Charagen's first BFAD certified and approved Ampalaya Capsule. Sealing the tie-up with a handshake are (from left) Charagen EVP Enrico Torres, Ph. D. and Philamlife SAVP for accident and health department Mark Albert Ampil. Also shown are (from left) Philamlife-Del Mundo Associates servicing agent Allain David, Charagen, chief legal counsel lawyer Eulalio Ventura, Charagen president Roman Sio, vice president for finance Marie Sio, Joy Flavier-Alampay, ABSGen vice president Grace Gupana, and president Paul Gupana, Charagen vice president for operations Mario Eugenio, and Charagen vice president for marketing Wilmer Galamay.

Iloilo allowed to resume animal product shipment

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor recently lifted the ban on shipment of FMD susceptible animals and products from Iloilo to the rest of Visayas.

Secretary Montemayor signed Memo Circular No. 4 recently, citing the "satisfactory results" of measures undertaken in the FMD control and eradication in the province.

The memo supercedes a previous memo signed by then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo J. Angara imposing a shipment restriction from Iloilo Province to Visayas, Mindanao, Palawan and Masbate of FMD-susceptible animals and products. The memo was signed last Sept. 23.

Iloilo had its last outbreak on Oct. 7, 1999 with the last FMD vaccination on September 2000. Regular surveillance was done for the past two years.

With Iloilo FMD-free for two years, Visayas could now apply as an FMD-free zone without vaccination with the Office Internationale Des Epizooties (OIE).

Andanians Christmas party at Crame

THE ANDANIANS Association Inc. (AAI), an organization of natives of Anda, Pangasinan and relatives residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, will hold its Christmas party on Dec. 8, Saturday, at Camp Crame in Quezon City. For further inquiries, Andanians can call Jessie Panit (912-0511/913-2373); Rose Calicdan (417-2991); Harry Cativo (527-8421), and Eli Canta (046-5710001/0917-6491082).

Productivity and Quality Wordles contest

HAVE a fun and rewarding interplay with the power of words. The Productivity and Development Center of the Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines (PDC-DAP) invites everyone to join its Productivity and Quality Wordles Contest. Create your own wordles by arranging letters, numbers and symbols into productivity and quality terms, concepts, and famous quotes. See examples and more details at PDC-DAP's website www.pdc.ph. Send entries to PDC-DAP through e-mail jasmin@dap.edu.ph or mail to Productivity and Development Center, DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City. Deadline for submission of entries is until today, Dec. 7. For more details, call PDC-DAP at 631-2137 or 631-0921 local 171, look for Jasmin San Juan or Corinne Bernaldez.

Say no to aging

"SAY no to Aging" is a free lecture sponsored by the Fatima Medical Center (FMC) Valenzuela, Bulacan. It will be held at the FMC Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Alumni Dr. Gary S. Sy, Diplomate in Geriatric Medicine, Medical/Health columnist and broadcaster and medical director of the Life Extension Medical Center, will be the guest lecturer. Sy has recently been affiliated with the American Society of Geriatric Medicine. For further information, call Life Extension Medical Center at 400-4205 or 522-4835 or 41, local 315.

A CHRISTMAS NIGHT WITH VINA

A concert titled 'A Christmas Night with Vina Morales' will be held on Dec. 17 at Davao Convention and Trade Center. Major presentors to the concert are Air Philippines and Aficionado Perfume Germany, and for the benefit of the Philippine Mental Health Association. Tickets are available at all Aficionado outlets at JS Citimall, Gaisano Mall and SM City, Davao. Shown are Joel Cruz, producer, Vina Morales and Remar de Leon, general manager of Aficionado Perfume Germany.

AHMC TIES UP WITH HEALTH NEWS

As a way to share the insights and expertise of its highly respected medical staff, Asian Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) signs an agreement with Health News to feature articles written by the doctors in its weekly publication. The subject of the weekly column will tackle a broad scope in the medical field, depending on the expertise of the writer. Health News, the only weekly health magazine in the country, has been in the market for nearly five years, containing stories mainly from American and British wire services, as well as articles from some of the country's foremost medical experts. Shown (from left) are AHMC marketing manager Twinkle Amparo, Kabayan Publishing Inc. executive vice president Dante Ang II, AHMC vice president for medical affairs Dr. Rodrigo B. Floro and AHMC marketing director Karen De Asis.

BITS & Clips

Sent by an Angel bazaar

FINDING quality gift items at great bargain prices is a necessity for this coming Christmas season. Now on its second year, "Sent by an Angel II Bazaar" makes shopping an event to look forward to. Mark your calendars, Dec. 9, Sunday at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Enjoy going through over 90 selected booths showcasing the best ceramic ZEN accents, handmade candles, jewelry accessories, export quality handbags, export clothing overruns, specially baked goodies, deli products from all over the Philippines, children's educational crafts, toys, scents, and colognes. More importantly, as you enjoy your Christmas shopping you in turn help the abused children in the care of Bantay Bata 163, the beneficiary of the event. Call 913-0345 or 0916-3959963 for details.

Ever marks 29th year

IN CELEBRATION of Ever's 29th anniversary, Ever Department Stores and Supermarket gives its loyal shoppers a chance to win P1 million in cash, tax-free, plus instant prizes daily in the "Be an Ever Millionaire" promo which will run up to Dec. 9. For every purchase of P2,500 from the department store and/or supermarket (single, cumulative and/or combined receipts) or P5,000 from the Appliance & Furniture section of the department store or P5,000 from the Wholesale Section of the supermarket, a customer is entitled to one scratch card where lots of prizes will be given away instantly. The scratch card also qualifies the shopper to join the raffle. On Dec. 15, at Ever Commonwealth, an Ever shopper will win P1 million in cash, tax-free. Ever Department Stores & Supermarkets are located at Recto, Kalookan, Grand Central, Commonwealth and Ortigas.

Southville learning exhibit in Cebu

THE SECOND in a series of interactive learning exhibits being conducted by Southville International School affiliated with Foreign Universities (Sisfu 820-9181/820-5952) will be held today, Dec. 7 at the Entertainment Center of Ayala Town Center in Cebu City. The exhibit will showcase, through brief lectures, demos and contests, the various courses and programs offered by Sisfu under its three affiliate foreign universities: London City College, Insearch/University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and Ihmes, International Hotel School. As a pioneer in global education, the Sisfu system features a focused curriculum, professional and industry-recognized qualifications, and a faculty drawn from many nations. For inquiries, call Sisfu at 820-9181, 820-5952 or 825-5147.

De La Salle Chorale Christmas concert

THE DE LA Salle University Chorale will be staging a pre-Christmas concert entitled "The Magic of Christmas" today, Dec. 7, Friday, at 7 p.m. at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament in De La Salle University, Manila. Showcasing the best of Christmas music, the group features Filipino and English favorites. Recently, the group went to Korea on a goodwill tour and completed a series of performances. The DLSU Chorale will again embark on a similar endeavor as it prepares for its 2002 International Tour in the United States and Canada. "The Magic of Christmas" is co-presented by the cultural arts office of DLSU-Manila. For ticket inquiries, call Minette Gamboa at 0917-5380901, or Janeth Salceda at 524-4611 loc. 702/737.

Shakey's final raffle

WITH the final leg of the Shakey's "Party On Us" promo, Shakey's is gearing up for the next batch of free all-occasion party winners for the last draw of the year slated on Dec. 14. The five winners who will be determined on this day will get a Shakey's party package absolutely free. To qualify, customers need only to avail themselves of a minimum party package worth P3,000. There are four exciting party themes to choose from. Deadline for submission of entries is on Dec. 7, Friday. For party inquiries, visit your nearest Shakey's pizza outlet or visit www.shakeyspizza.ph.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on **19 December 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE				
BATAAN				
CRA-12	Roman Superhighway, Boundary of Hermosa and Orani	6,807 m² adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-208130 and T-208131) with buildings and improvements.	P	6,964,800.00
BATANGAS				
LJG-124	Bo. Soro Soro, Carzada, Batangas City	1,274 m² industrial lot (TCT No. T-46824) with buildings, improvements, and various machinery & equipment for industrial clay processing	P	2,683,700.00
LDA-144	So. Pulo, Brgy. San Carlos, Rosario	8,599 m² (orchard) agricultural lot (TCT No. T-112360)	P	859,900.00
BULACAN				
LDA-101	Poblacion, Bustos	1,015.50 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-132040) with buildings and improvements	P	2,317,700.00
LAGUNA				
VPI-96	Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) with 4-storey office/factory building and improvements	P	2,006,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on per unit and "as-is, where-is" basis)				
MBL-165	Back of Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	One (1) non-propelled deck-loading barge, all steel welded construction (partly submerged) with the following principal dimensions: Length Overall (93.27M); Breadth (21.34M); Depth (4.88M); Gross tonnage (3,097 tons).	P	13,254,000.00
VJC-79 a	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) unit Boltformer Machine, Taiwan-made, Model CD-50	P	2,402,800.00
VJC-79 b	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	Twenty five (25) units various steel manufacturing machinery & equipment	P P	3,300.00 to 763,700.00/unit
LRD-140 a-i	Pinatubo Bricks Mfg. Compound, Brgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	Eleven (11) units various brick making machinery & equipment (in dismantled condition)	P P	9,900.00 to 181,300.00/unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V.
815-1460 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M; and
920-4794 and 920-4781 for Code starting with C;

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - Dec 6 & 7, 2001)

CINEMANILA 2001 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
December 7-16, 2001
Greenbelt and Glorietta Cinemas, Makati City

December 7 (Friday) Screening Schedule

VENUE	11:40AM	2:10PM	4:40PM
Greenbelt 1	Attack the Gas Station (Korea)	Return to Pontianak (Singapore)	No Man's Land (Belgium)
Greenbelt 3	Under the Sand (France)	The Small Town (Turkey)	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea)
Glorietta 4	The Tree (Singapore)	Chunhyang (Korea)	Divine (Mexico)

VENUE	7:10PM	9:40PM
Greenbelt 1	Detector (Norway)	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea)
Greenbelt 3	Spinning Gasing (Malaysia)	No Man's Land (Belgium)
Glorietta 4	Chunhyang (Korea)	Under the Sand (France)

Seminars and Screenings
Greenbelt Preview Room

9:00AM	New Technologies Applied in Post Production (16mm & 35mm) with Daniel Borenstein
2:00PM	Post Production Techniques for Advertising Films, 2D-3D Animation with Gilbert Hus
6:00PM	The Phantom of Liberty (France)

*SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Biotech reaps venture cash

SAN FRANCISCO—Venture capital firms are jumping on the biotechnology bandwagon, pumping cash into start-up labs and related information technology, even as they slash financing for ventures in other technology sectors.

Venture firms, many stung when the Internet bubble burst, are now looking to biotech because—despite its history of false starts—they believe its potential products will sell in good times and bad.

"There will always be people to take advantage of these things no matter what the economy is doing," said Jeanne Metzger, a business development officer with the National Venture Capital Association. "You always need better drugs."

And better drugs will increasingly be made with the help of better information technology, opening up promising opportunities at the confluence of biotech and computing.

Hitachi Ltd. last week renewed a deal with 4-year-old DoubleTwist to market its databases for researching genetic data online, an inexpensive alternative to buying IT systems to identify new drug targets.

In a similar play, Motorola Inc. has invested in TissueInformatics Inc., which is developing a wireless-enabled database of human and plant tissue images converted into data for drug research.

Biotech's popularity has kept money flowing when many entrepreneurs in other tech sectors have found the well dry.

Biotech start-ups raised about $4.3 billion through the first three quarters of this year, compared with about $5.2 billion in the first three quarters of 2000, according to the National Venture Capital Association.

While this marks a 17 percent drop year-over-year, biotech financing is still in much better shape than overall funding of privately held companies—down 63 percent between the first three quarters of 2000 and the first three quarters of 2001.

Biotech currently ranks third among tech sectors—behind software and network infrastructure, and ahead of wireless, optical, broadband and semiconductors—in venture funds raised over the past 60 days, according to the tracking service VentureReporter.net, which estimates that over that time biotech start-ups reaped $613 million.

Biotech rode a wave of hype in the late 1980s only to come crashing down, costing investors billions of dollars.

Many turned to other sectors, including the Internet and telecommunications, whose hot IPOs produced massive returns by the late 1990s for early investors.

"Many venture firms abandoned life sciences because they could not get the fast trip to liquidity that info-tech deals provided," said Jack Gill of Vanguard Venture Partners and a faculty member and lecturer at the Harvard Medical School.

By contrast, venture firms now are more patient biotech investors, said Brian Dovey of venture firm Domain Associates.

"Players are coming in, but not crazy like they did before. They are more thoughtful," Dovey said.

More selective venture backing should help drug discovery as money goes to better focused and managed start-ups. Research also should be boosted with data from the mapping of the human genome, the genetic blueprint for a human being, according to John Freund, managing director of Skyline Ventures.

Meanwhile, a number of factors could also attract more venture backing for biotech, according to Philippe Chambon, a physician by training and general partner with the Sprout Group venture firm. He points to an aging population, increasing use of drug therapies and a less volatile biotech sector. *Reuters*

How to buy doc stamps and pay your DST

(From page B16)

through an online set-up or electronic data transmission with the BIR, thereby enabling the latter to monitor actual usage or stamp consumption of the users.

Once a taxpayer has been granted by the BIR the authority to use either the electro-mechanical DST metering machine or the online electronic DST imprinting machine, the payment of the DST on all transactions of such taxpayer shall be coursed through the said machine. This rule applies even for documents or transactions where the DST due is P15 or less. The only exceptions are when the permit or authority to use the DST metering machine is revoked or when its use is no longer mandatory to the industry or business in which the taxpayer belongs.

In case the taxpayer is authorized or required to use a DST metering machine, he can use only one metering machine in two (2) or more branches, but not exceeding four (4) branches, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The head office of the taxpayer/entity shall identify the branches which shall utilize the specified unit of DST metering machine and shall furnish the BIR with the list of the same;
2. Only the branches identified to the specific unit of DST metering machine are allowed to use such unit for their respective DST affixtures;
3. In no case shall one branch be an identified user to more than one DST metering machine;
4. The purchase of documentary stamps to be loaded on to the machine shall be made by filing the Documentary Stamp Tax Declaration/Return (BIR Form No. 2000) and paying the corresponding amount of DST purchase; and
5. The DST Declaration/Return as well as the supporting details of DST usage under Schedule 1 thereof, subject of current replenishment/purchase, shall be accomplished on a per machine basis, unless the commissioner of Internal

Revenue otherwise provides.

In certain cases, the medium of affixture or payment of the DST may vary from the methods we have so far covered.

In case of warehouse receipts, certificates of stocks and/or contract of stock subscription, passage tickets and other documents having stubs or duplicates kept by persons issuing them, the DST shall be affixed to the stubs or duplicates. For shares of stock sold without a certificate issued, the DST shall be affixed to the memorandum of sale or purchase or confirmation slip or its equivalent.

In cases where numerous shares of stock are issued at one time, the commissioner may authorize the affixture of stamps to the stock and transfer book/register. With respect to checks drawn against current account, manager's, cashier's, treasurer's checks, the documentary stamps shall be affixed to the requisition/purchase slip.

With respect to insurance policies, the documentary stamps shall be affixed to the premium register or its equivalent.

With respect to taxable transactions of banks, the documentary stamps shall be affixed to the proof sheets of each department.

In the case of airline and shipping companies, the documentary stamps shall be affixed to the cargo manifests, on a per flight/trip basis, instead of affixing them to each and every cargo airway bill/bill of lading. The cargo manifests containing all the airway bills/bills of lading issued shall be numbered consecutively.

Finally, the regulations provide that taxpayers covered by RR 9-2000, or those mandated to use the online electronic DST imprinting machine, who are currently using the electro-mechanical DST metering machine, must shift to the online electronic DST imprinting machine. The remaining DST balance may be transferred to the online electronic DST imprinting machine only upon approval of the commissioner or his duly authorized representative.

(For comments, please send an e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO.)

Taste it, to sell it

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR many Filipinos, all pastas and olive oils are created equal. They taste the same and they look the same. Perhaps the only thing that influences people to buy a certain brand of pasta or olive oil is the price.

This is one of the challenges that importer Fly Ace Corp. faced when it brought in the Federici pasta, one of the oldest manufacturers of Italian pasta and Pietro Coricelli olive oils to the Philippines.

MARKETING STRATEGY

In a shelf full of different kinds of pasta and olive oil, Fly Ace wants the consumer to choose its products. It wants to impress on people's minds that some pasta and olive oil brands are different from the others.

What better way to prove it than to let people actually taste it.

This is what is called "experiential marketing," says Fly Ace marketing head Brad Geiser.

Under this strategy, Fly Ace organizes cooking demonstrations with different restaurants to show the versatility of Federici pasta. It started with middle Eastern cuisine last October through Prince restaurant, followed by a demonstration through Toque,' a restaurant in Quezon City offering California-Mediterranean cuisine.

Another cooking demonstration is scheduled this month at Henry's, a restaurant featuring Spanish dishes.

"We have got to get people to try the product because we want people to understand that these products are of the highest quality. We also want our products to be associated with the best restaurants," Geiser explains.

Federici has been producing quality pasta since 1800s. It is made from high-grade durum wheat semolina, and processed with pure water. It produces pasta with the least manual contact to assure cleanliness and hygiene.

"We think this is a better way of introducing the product rather than just simply looking at pretty pictures," Geiser adds.

Fly Ace's job, however, is made a little bit easier by the fact that Filipinos have grown accustomed to eating pasta as a fancy substitute for rice and using olive oil in cooking because of its obvious health benefits.

FOOD importer Fly Ace Corp. says not all pasta brands are created equal.

Fly Ace also takes another step by helping educate Filipinos to the proper way of using pasta.

Geiser says certain sizes and types of pasta go well with certain types of sauces.

Spaghetti and fettucini, for instance, are made for liquid sauces. Long thin strands can be coated and wrapped around a fork to get a good balance between noodle and sauce.

The thinner the strand, the more sauce is held, so a milder sauce is recommended. Conversely, the thick flat strands of fetuccini are for sauces with more potent flavor.

Tubular pastas like rigatoni, ziti and elbow macaroni are made for heavier cheese and meat based sauces. The design gives the pasta more rigidity to absorb the heavy sauce without collapsing.

The more specialized pasta like the twisted, spiral shaped rotini pasta are for sauces with small, flavorful bits and chunks of food such as bacon bits. The shape allows the pasta to catch the bits and chunks.

The bow-tie pasta looked like it name and is best for dishes with creamy and tomato-based sauces that have either meat, seafood or vegetables mixed in. The lasagna noodles, on the other hand, are the Italia pasta version of a lumpia wrapper.

These are made to wrap and contain sauce or meat.

"We help spread the word about the proper way to eat and use the pasta so that the next time they go a store, they will know what to buy," Geiser stresses.

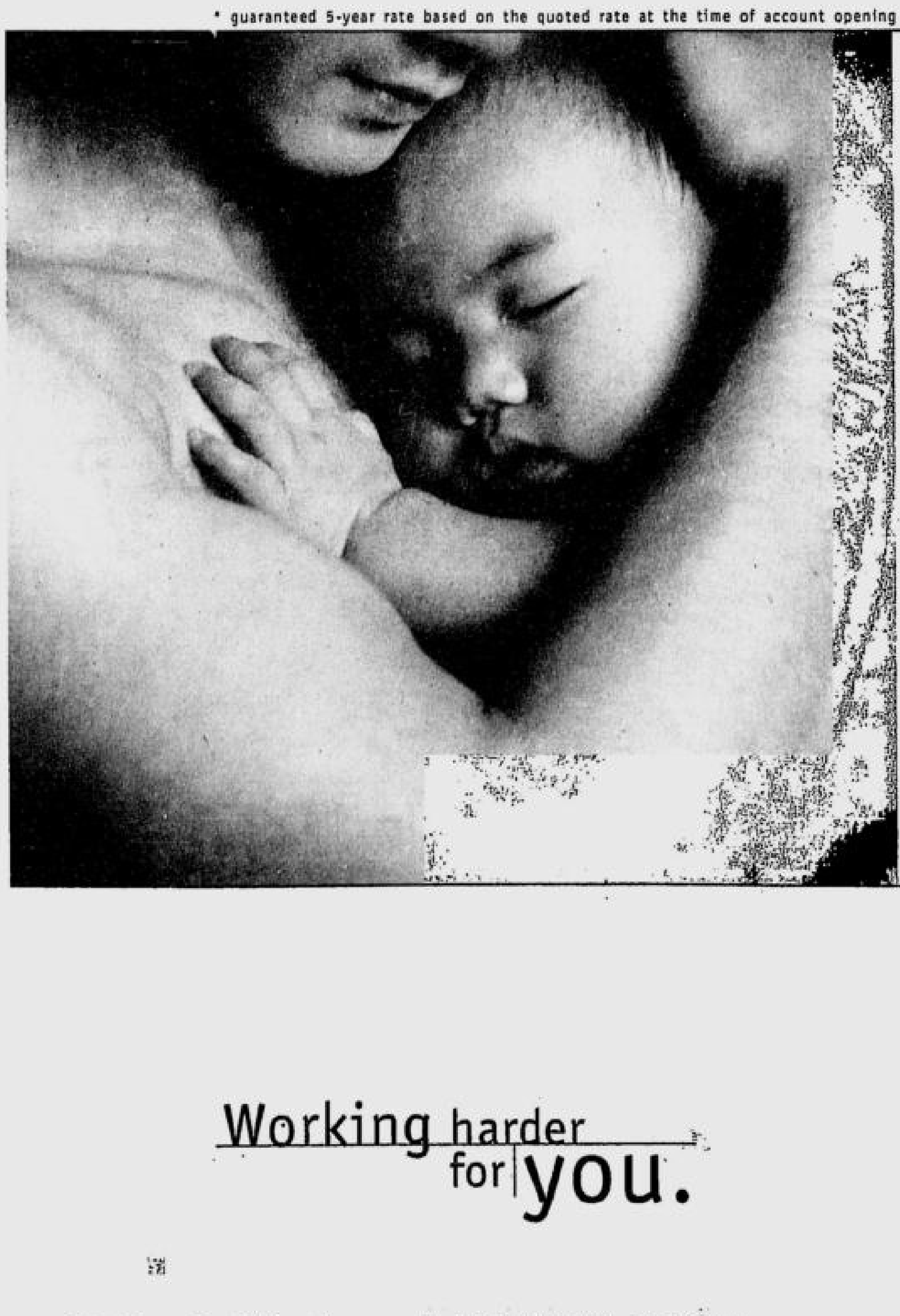
Far East Bankers hold reunion

"SAMA-SAMA Muli Sa Pasko 2001" will bring together more than 2,000 Far East Bankers from the '60s to the '90s as the Far East Bankers Club holds its grand reunion tonight at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) within the CCP Complex.

This grand reunion will be a "homecoming" of sorts at the PICC where the Far East Bankers held their Christmas parties since 1987. Guest performers through the years include Gary Valenciano, The APO, Martin Nievera, Vernie Varga, Side A Band and other top-caliber entertainers. To provide entertainment at the reunion tonight is the famous band, The Flintstones.

The Far East Bankers Club was formed last year and aims to bring together all those who, at one time or another, have been part of Far East Bank and Trust Co. The club seeks to reestablish networking and rekindle old friendships in the spirit of camaraderie and fun.

The steering committee for "Sama-sama Muli Sa Pasko 2001" is composed of Nito Cacho, Rudy Datoc, Esther Araneta, Tony Fleta, Rico Abadilla, Susie Yap, Mina Dilag, Randy Marian Katigbak, Romy Dilag, Diding Bernardo, Marie Reyes and Chell Jacob.



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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Battling against keeping too much inventory

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the biggest problems faced by retailers and businesses in general is how to reduce inventory or excess stock in their stores.

The challenge is to make sure that the products are there when the consumers want them and none or just a little, when there is minimal demand.

It sounds very simple but retailers around the world spend millions of dollars on the latest technology or software to master the science of keeping inventory at a minimum, and in-demand items at a maximum.

Keeping inventory means tying up a firm's cash position. That is why it is important to just have enough to meet the demand at a given time.

Accenture, one of the world's biggest financial consulting firms, however, showed in a study that inventory costs are still high and out-of-stock situations continue to occur in the marketplace despite the awareness of supply chain inefficiencies in the market and the advent of newer and better software.

Accenture's study showed that a shopper in an average supermarket will find 8.2 percent of items out-of-stock on a typical afternoon. These out-of-stock occurrences represent 6.5 percent of sales.

Consumers refuse to buy an alternative 34 percent of the time, resulting in lost sales which amount to an astounding $7 to $12 billion.

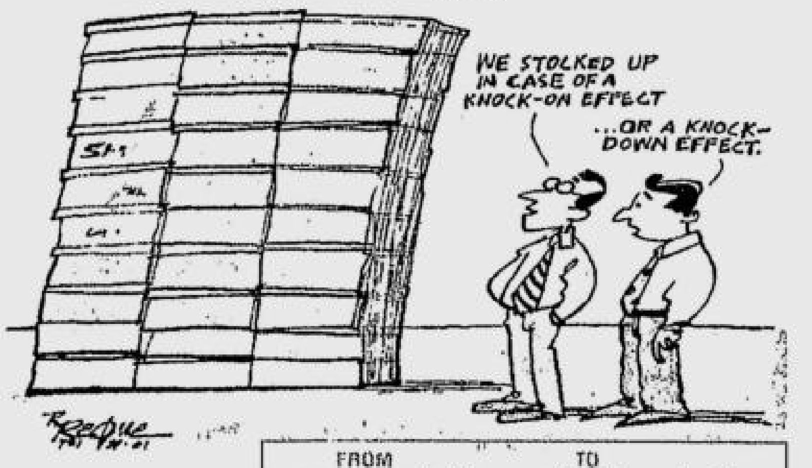
The study further showed that manufacturers around the world hold some $450 billion in inventory, another $250 billion is held by wholesalers and distributors, and another $300 billion by retailers.

These numbers clearly show that there is still lot of room to improve operating efficiencies, which would quickly result in cost savings.

Collaboration

One of the culprits behind the high and expensive inventory levels was the difference between the sales forecasts of the manufacturer, distributor and the retailer. A manufacturer, for instance, will produce more than what the retailers can actually absorb because it was more optimistic about the sales. This means that it will eventually hold a lot of inventory because of overproduction.

The retailer, on the other hand, may be saddled with out-of-stock problems because the manufacturer did not produce enough.


WE STOCKED UP IN CASE OF A KNOCK-ON EFFECT
...OR A KNOCK-DOWN EFFECT.
SM
Rodrigue

FROM	TO
◦ sequential supply chain	◦ collaborative supply chain
◦ reactive and tactical	◦ proactive and strategic
◦ consumer at end	◦ consumer at center
◦ limited information sharing	◦ unlimited information sharing
◦ multiple forecasts with uncertainty	◦ single, shared forecast in sync with consumer demand

The key then, Accenture said, was to get the different players in the supply chain—manufacturer, distributor and retailer—to come up with one forecast to minimize the problems of high inventory or out-of-stock items.

Thus was born Accenture's Collaborative Planning, Forecasting and Replenishment program which builds on lessons learned from previous ways to improve supply chain efficiency.

CPFR is about a retailer and manufacturer using the Internet and collaborating around one shared forecast, rather than each one keeping their own, explained Jaime G. del Rosario, country managing director of Accenture in the Philippines.

"It is also about a retailer sharing store sales data as it happens with the manufacturer, and the manufacturer sharing stock information as it is manufactured with the retailer. This partnering squarely addresses the major problem in supply chain—excessive high inventory in the trade (manufacturer, middlemen and retailer)," Del Rosario said.

CPRF is based on supply chain collaboration between trading partners and focuses on better understanding the consumer.

"Most of the big benefits center around the retailer and the manufacturer collaborating on just one forecast. With a single forecast, the manufacturer can replenish with 100-percent fill rate and the retailer can bring stock to very low levels, just to anticipate possible demand variance from forecast," Del Rosario explained.

"That one big idea alone can reduce stock in the trade, retailer stock, manufacturer stock, reduce back orders, keep up the fill rate, keep up the in-stock rate," he added.

Del Rosario also said the secondary set of benefits revolved around the retailers and manufacturers providing each other the electronic real-time windows into each other's store sales and production schedules. This provides real-time verification of consumption and production.

Successful pilot tests

Several large companies in North America, United Kingdom, Australia and Western Europe have tested CPFR. These include Wal-Mart, Kmart, Wegman's Earth grains, Nabisco and Heineken.

Accenture said in its study that Wal-Mart and Warner-Lambert ran a manual collaborative forecasting pilot in 1997 to show the benefits. They sat down and developed forecasts about everything from planned changes in shelf layouts to meteorological data about pollen counts and when flu season will hit a certain region.

"Through supply chain partnering, they eliminated about 25 percent of stock in trade, or two weeks worth of products, cut order cycle time by about 50 percent through managing down the back orders, and while still achieving a 97-percent in-stock and 99-percent fill rate," Del Rosario said.

"Tie that up to the volume of the product in a year, you can clearly see that this combination of technology, processes, people mindset changes (it's not just technology) easily pays for itself," he added.

Local talks

Del Rosario said Accenture has just started talking with a manufacturer and a retailer involved in the food manufacturer to test the CPFR solution in the country. Once this pilot project is implemented successfully, it will be rolled out by the end of the year.

How to buy doc stamps and pay your DST

By Mary Rose A. Valencia

TAX-FILES

DOCUMENTARY stamp taxes (DST) are imposed on documents, instruments, loan agreements and papers as well as upon acceptances, assignments, sales and transfers of rights, property or obligations. It is important to know how to pay the DST since practically every legal and business transaction is subject to it.

Generally, the payment of DST is made by filing the DST Declaration/Return (BIR Form No. 2000) and paying the tax due. This manner of payment is known as constructive stamping of DST on the taxable document/facility evidencing the transaction or the receipt system. Sounds complicated? It really isn't that difficult to understand this method as it entails only the affixing of the duplicate or certified true copy of the DST return or proof of payment of the DST to the document or facility evidencing the transaction. Under this payment system, the advance purchase of DST for future application is not allowed.

If the DST due on the document or transaction is P15 or less, the taxpayer may purchase loose documentary stamps from the Revenue Collection officer or deputized municipal treasurer and affix the stamps on the document.

The purchase of loose documentary stamps for future application is limited to P200 and subject to the condition that it will be used only for a transaction or document where the DST due does not exceed P15.

Another method of purchasing documentary stamps is by imprinting the stamps through a documentary stamp metering machine. The machine may either be a conventional electromechanical documentary stamp metering machine or online electronic DST imprinting machine. The purchase of documentary stamps using these methods shall be allowed only to persons authorized to use the conventional electro-mechanical BIR Registered Metering Machines and those classes of taxpayers which are mandated by Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 9-2000 to use the online electronic DST imprinting machine.

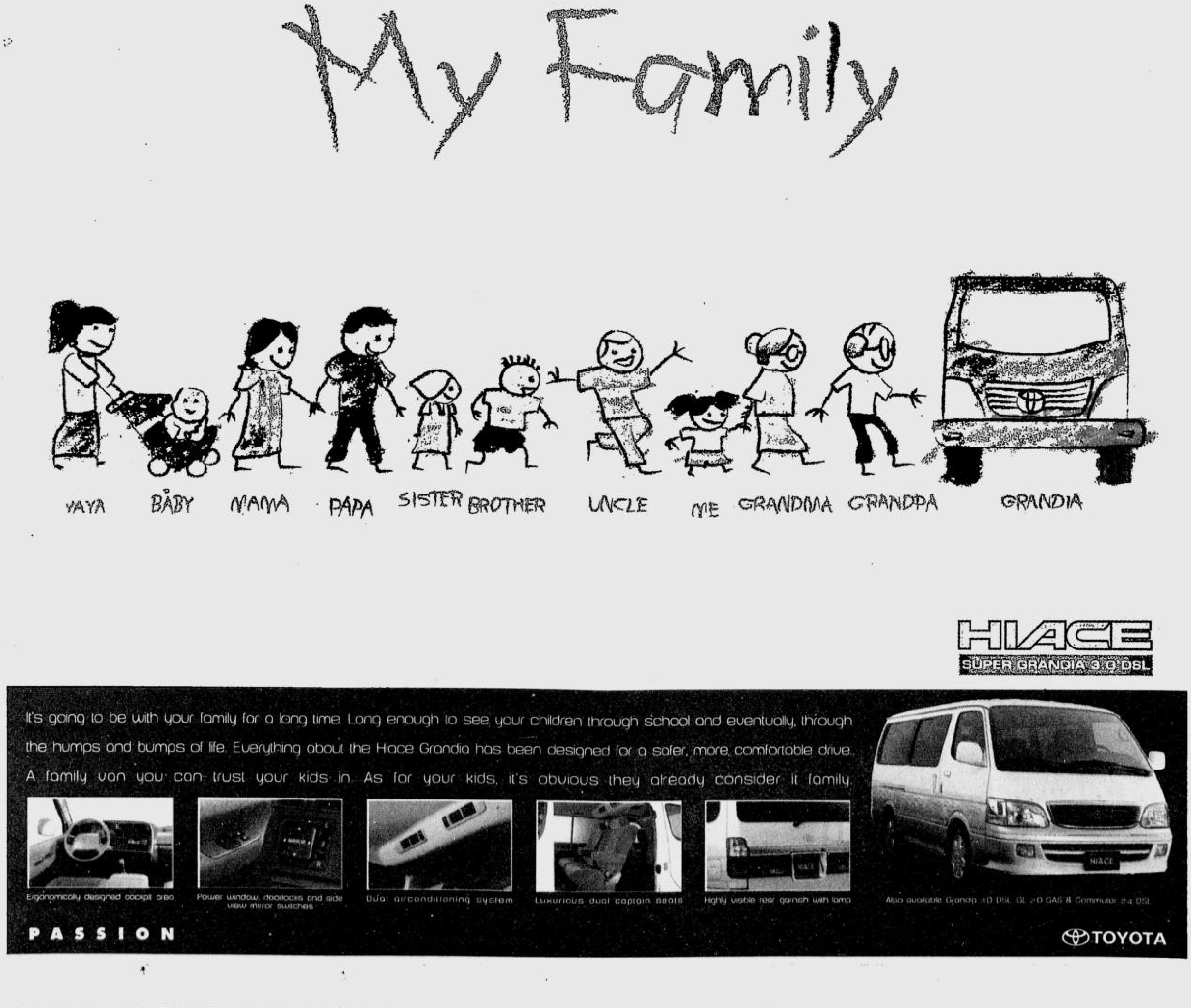
Under RR No. 7-92, a person or entity who intends to install a documentary stamp metering machine shall file an application for permit to operate the same with the assistant commissioner (Collection Service), through the chief of the Collection Performance Evaluation Division (CPED). Once the application is granted, the person or entity may install such machine in their office or in any other place designated for that purpose.

On the other hand, RR No. 9-2000 provides that the following class of taxpayers shall use the online electronic DST imprinting machine in the payment and remittance of their documentary stamp taxes:

1. A bank, a quasi-bank or a non-bank financial intermediary, a finance company, or an insurance, a surety, a fidelity, or annuity company;
2. The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), in the case of shares of stock and other securities traded in the local stock exchange;
3. Shipping and airline companies;
4. A pre-need company on sale of pre-need plans as provided under Section 186 of the Code; and
5. Such other industries as may be required by the commissioner to use the online electronic DST imprinting machine.

As to what exactly is an online electronic DST imprinting machine, Section 4 of RR No. 9-2000 provides that it is a device capable of imprinting the value of the stamp tax and other data on the taxable document, with remote loading and resetting feature, and/or with built-in modem which enables users to load/purchase the stamp tax value

HOW/ B15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Trend Spotting
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Barging into déjà vu

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY JOHN MOSSIGE,
CAL CARRIE INTERNATIONAL

ODE to Mario Fortuny, pleated and draped.

DESIGNER and fashion writer Barge Ramos sets himself apart by designing modified traditional motifs out of indigenous materials, without sacrificing the logic of western fashion. His aim has always been to show Filipinos bristling with confidence as Westernized Asians, not mere followers of foreign fashion.

Ramos experienced déjà vu when he was asked to create a collection for the INQUIRER's pictorial. He said it had been 20 years since he sat down for pre-production and post-production meetings, discussing pictorial concepts and planning logistics for an out-of-town shoot. This was in the era when publications only used black-and-white printing. For this pictorial set in Villa Escudero, Ramos was challenged to design clothes according to that genre.

"I shut my mind thinking like a young designer all over again. In youth, you want to do all sorts of clothes. Basically I was thinking in ecru and black, using indigenous materials," he said.

Christian's baptism

Ramos is not only a proponent of modern Filipiniana and the *barong* with a twist. He is also one of the most articulate designers in the country. His background in communication arts honed his eloquence.

When he was starting out, Ramos had no plans of venturing into fashion design. When Ramos would have his clothes made by Christian Espiritu, he would bring sketches. The designer observed that his young client had the talent. Since Ramos was still bidding time after graduation, Espiritu offered him mentorship in his atelier. Ramos worked in the men's shop while Gang Gomez handled the women's department. From his mentor, he learned how to practice restraint and how to update one's self and not get stuck in formula.

Eventually he took writing jobs for directors Gil Portes, Nestor Torre and Gerry Guillen for a government television station. One day, a friend told Ramos that there was a nice space on Leon Guinto to open a shop.

"Being impulsive, without any machinery and staff and with one-year apprenticeship with Christian Espiritu, I took a leap of faith," recalled Ramos. At first his parents were against it. Since their son had studied at the Ateneo from grade one to college, they had expected him to get into the corporate world. Nonetheless, they supported his venture and gave their son some capital.

Ramos started making separates for SM Boutique Square, Cinderella and Robinsons Department Store.

Imee's influence

In 1981, Ramos and some colleagues formed the Fashion Designers Association. To launch the group, they organized a gala with a Filipiniana theme. Ramos combined *jusi* tops with Indian sari materials and introduced photo silk-screened ethnic patterns on indigenous materials. Then first daughter Imee Marcos, who was the association's honorary chair, was impressed. She ordered clothes from Ramos and popularized his *barong* for women.

> Barge Ramos reinvents the look that has become unmistakably his—Filipino motif, vernacular fabric and western silhouette

Through Imee, he made *barongs*, shirt-jackets and shirts for then President Ferdinand Marcos. Imee showed Ramos Italian shirts and other designs and asked Ramos if they would suit the President. Once, just to get the pattern for the presidential logo, Imee had to sneak out a golf cap for the insignia to be copied.

Since then, Ramos has been associated with *barong* with *batik* prints and tailored clothes made from handwoven materials. He said overseas Filipinos and foreigners appreciate his designs such as swing tops made of handpainted *jusi*. One of his most challenging designs was a *piña* evening jacket made for a hotelier. The designer used *piña bastos*, which has a course quality, and transformed it into a sleek jacket with a Nehru collar.

When Ramos works with suppliers, he studies their patterns, then adds or subtracts details to make them different. Sometimes an element in the pattern is highlighted or downscaled. "I take one detail out to make something totally new," he says. Most of the fabrics are in ecru or black. "Filipinos feel so safe when they're all in black."

Ramos did the unexpected by making a jacket in *abel* Iloko in dramatic black. He met resistance from weavers who didn't want to get out of the traditional colorful patterns and to modernize the fabrics by using a solid color.

Nothing new

However, if clients prefer silk shantung, heavy crêpe and crêpe wool,

BARGING/p.C6

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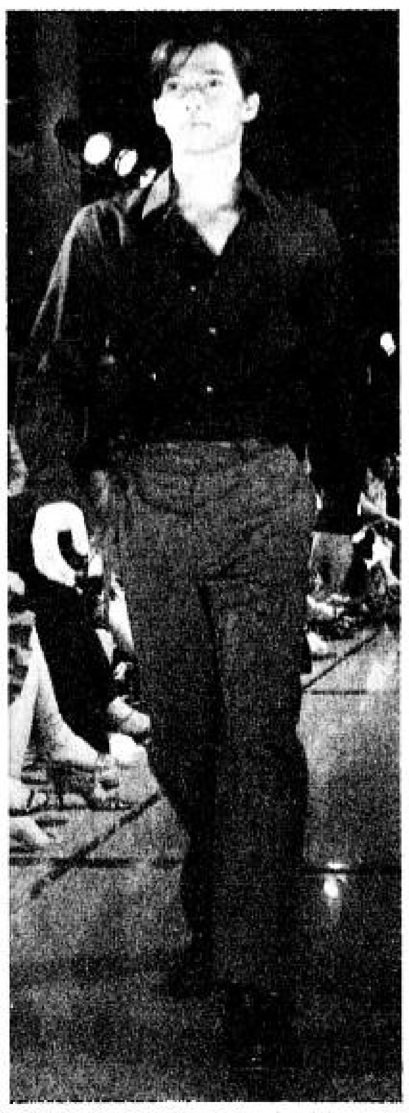
Man enough to be different

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

TUXEDO shirt with panel and piqué pants



EVENING shirt dotted with Swarovski crystals. Both pants and shirt are in cool cotton. A grosgrain ribbon replaces the formal cummerbund.

DESIGNER Rhett Eala is offering simpler solutions to men's dressing. For dressy occasions, he can chuck the suit and the stuffed shirt. Shirts and slacks in comfortable cotton are easy alternatives. The tuxedo details such as tucks, panels and wing tip collars are pared down. Instead of a cummerbund, he can wear a grosgrain ribbon. Beads and crystals in menswear brighten up a staid outfit without looking sissy.

Eala's idea of men's dressing is looking brutish, not dandy. The man exudes the air of nonchalance, not prissiness.

Eala and partner Cindy Yang are ecstatic over their new boutique Wink at Glorietta 3. Sales exceeded their expectations three times over. The designer attributed the brisk business to the holiday shopping spree and the publicity he got after his fashion show.

The most saleable items are the shifts and the evening ponchos. Surprisingly, the supply of the sheer ponchos can't meet the demand.

When Wink opens at Rockwell's Power Plant, Eala will introduce his men's line.

BIKER CHIC. Zip-front leather vest. A leather neckpiece with silver accessories from Mexico adds fun.

INSTEAD of the usual leather belt, accessorize with leather cords. This piece has Jewelmer pearls.

CLASSIC white shirt and jeans are updated. The top is made of stretch cotton and the vintage denims are accented with crystals.

Say hello to the mobile revolution

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ
Contributor

IT is difficult to believe that the first cellular phones were introduced only 10 years ago. What was once an appendage exclusive to business executives is a basic necessity for every other Filipino. I'm continuously amazed at the sheer volume of people who tote cell phones these days. I have seen 8-year-old kids, vendors in the street and even household helpers use SMS or "texting" so matter-of-factly as a form of communication. The cellular craze that has captured the nation is showing no signs of abating. Just go to the malls and check out the lines snaking at the ongoing "Globevolution" taking advantage of all the unbelievable deals being offered and you'll see what I mean.

More than being a convenient and affordable way to keep in touch with friends and loved ones, the cellular phone is used for many other things. It's a coveted status symbol for some, with the model of one's phone being equated with their social standing. In fact the rate at which people upgrade their phones never ceases to amaze me.

Indispensable

For others it is an indispensable fashion accessory. A plain black utilitarian phone is not enough anymore. Majority of the phones out in the market has a dizzying array of interchangeable covers to choose from. Are you in the mood for matte silver or neon red? No problem! I think I even came across some camouflage covers somewhere. Then there are the cases made of neoprene, leather, or some other materials. There are phone guards, funky characters to put on antennas (could never figure those out), various attachments to secure it to your bag, clip to your belt, or hang on your neck. Sometimes it seems inconceivable that cellular phones can go any further, but technology today evolves so quickly that today's latest model is obsolete next year. The companies that make these phones keep on making ingenious additions that boggle the mind.

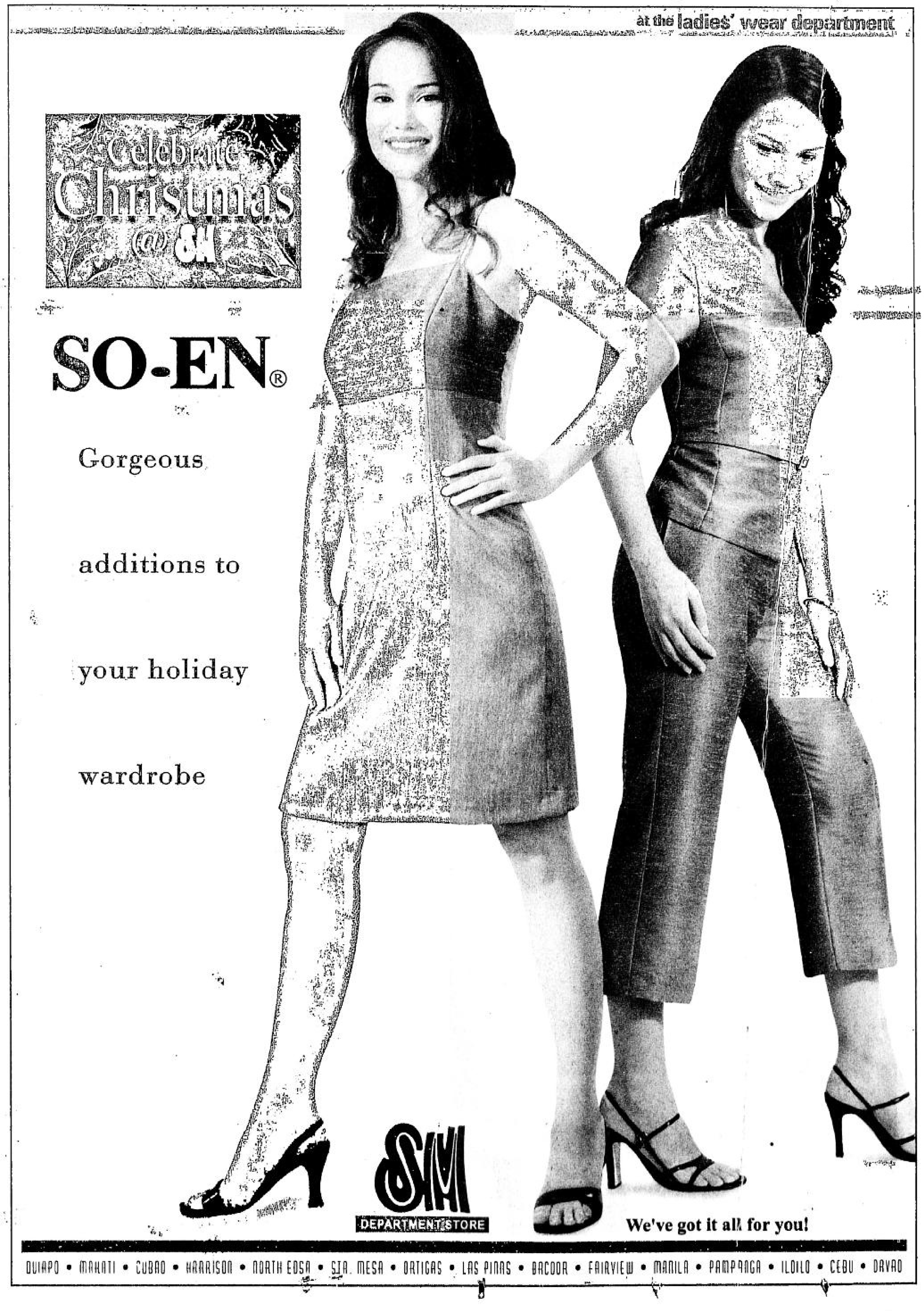
For instance, the Siemens S145 has a built-in MP3 player and a professional digital voice recorder. So not only can you listen to hours of your favorite compilations, you can also record little reminders for yourself. Their C45, which is geared for a younger market, has a Battlemail game installed that plays like a Nintendo game. In other words this is not just our average Snake. You can duel with other people with the same phone via infrared.

Latest

The latest Nokia offering, the 8310, has an FM radio and is WAP and GPRS-enabled. GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) is a new non-voice value-added service that allows information to be sent and received across a mobile telephone network. This service is faster than WAP and allows Internet access as well as chat. The nice thing about it also is that you are connected 24 hours but only pay for the hours you use. Without being too technical, let me just say that GPRS is the wave of the future, this is definitely the second-generation cellular phone. Globe Telecom actually has just introduced this service, which you can sample at the ongoing "Globevolution." Eventually it will be possible to even send images like photographs through this service and later on, even video conferencing. Other GPRS-capable phones are the Siemens ME45, S45 and the Ericsson T39.

Many phones also have great features like numerous games and downloadable ring tones and screen savers. There are also a growing number of voice-activated phones available. Some phones even double as a handheld computer or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant). But by far the most bizarre feature we have come across was the Samsung A400. It has a feature that can actually track a woman's ovulation and it can tell you when your most fertile days are. In other words, a phone that can help you get pregnant. What will they think of next?

All these phones are available at the ongoing "Globevolution," which will last till Dec. 9. For those who don't have the budget for these high-tech phones, there are many phones selling for under P5,000. There are even tie-ups with major credit cards that offer deferred payments with 0 interest for three months. Plus, even the high-end phones are being offered at a discount with some having as much as 75-percent off. Add to this prepaid card at discounted prices and bonus credits, it's no wonder people are swarming all over this Globe Telecom promotion.



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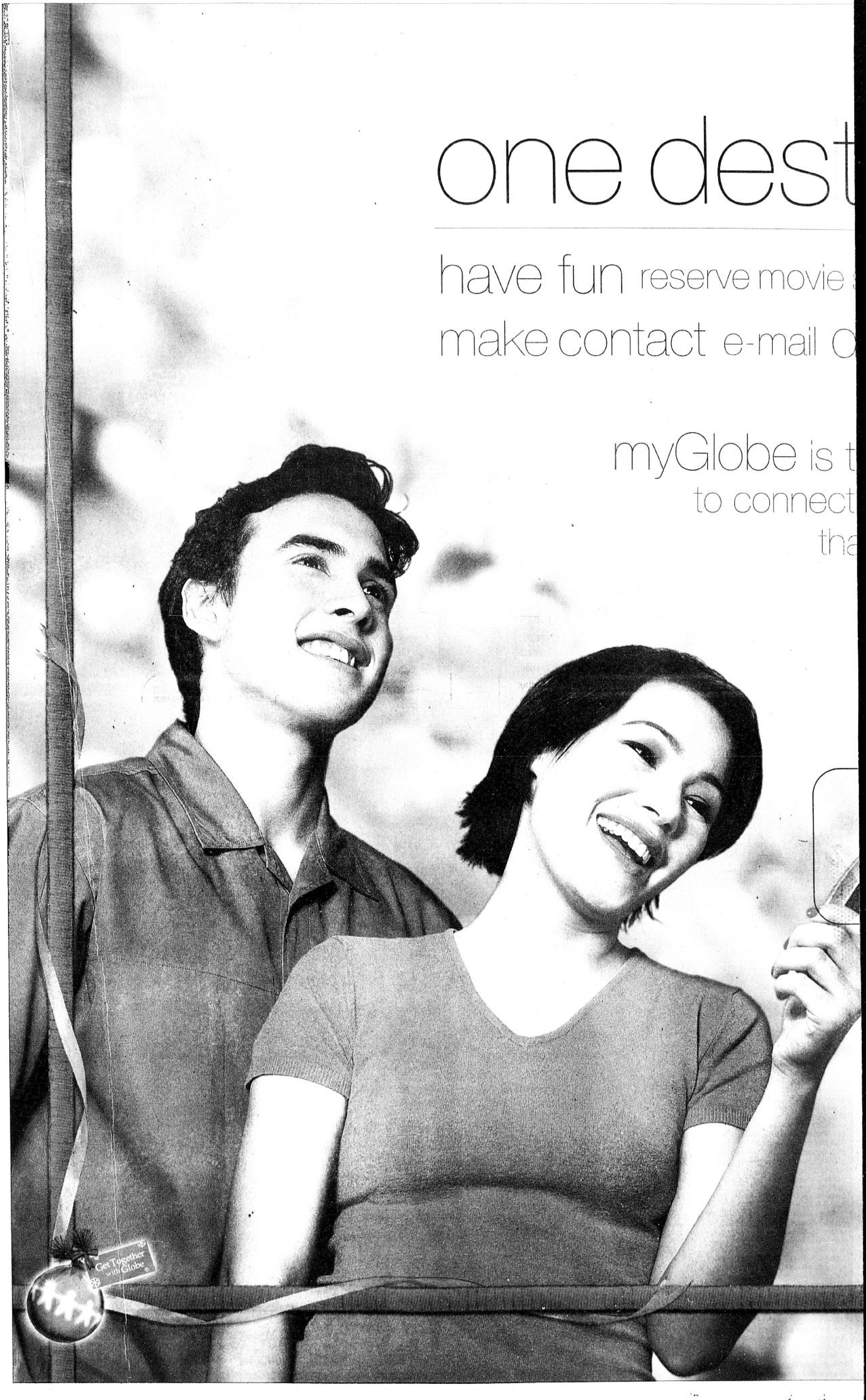
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Barging into déjà vu

BALANCING ACT. Ida stands on the lake in a lycra corset with big buttons and hotpants

The drama of black and white

WE chose the black-and-white formal, which unfortunately is no longer appreciated these days in local editorials. Foreign magazines combine black-and-white images with colored pictures. Ironically, local publications tend to ape Western glossies except for using black and white. In this digital age, some editors have this misconception that the black-and-white photo is regression. Norwegian photographer John Mossige explained that black-and-white photography is more challenging than color.

"If you want to find out the caliber of the photographer, ask him to do a black-and-white photo. It will reveal his understanding of light, his eye for contrasts and skin tones. A photographer takes pain to study lighting. He uses it to enhance the image," he said.

The team trooped to Villa Escudero for an exotic shoot. Mossige chose Ida Campo for her exotic looks. It rained heavily on the day of the shoot. Ramos and makeup artist Eric Maningat played "Singkil," exchanging umbrellas as they retouched the model's face. Mossige stole some shots between downpours. He said the rainy condition provided excellent lighting. The illumination is more intense on the skin tones and the surroundings look misty. Mossige said his judicious use of positive and negative spaces added luster to the picture's concept.

SILK fabric with fussy texture

WOVEN blanket made into a Chanel-inspired jacket

(From page C1)

Ramos would oblige. And yes, he still makes the popular evening gown with matching shawl. "That pays the bills," he said.

Asked his views on the fashion scene, Ramos said there are many young designers who excel in craftsmanship. From the FDAP, he cited John Espeleta, Dennis Martin and Roland Lirio.

However, he observed that there's something lacking in the design element.

"It's like you've seen it before—whether it's backless and gathered at the back and falls into the short train or the corset which has been perfected. We can't seem to get away from the mold. I'm not saying it's bad. I wish there would be other silhouettes we could move into. I guess it's in our culture. People don't want to dress up very differently from the next person. They are afraid to stand out. Unlike in '80s, fashion was about standing out, mixing this and that and getting away with it. Nowadays if you wear something dramatically different, you're *loka-loka.*"

When it comes to expressing one's self through fashion, Tingting Cojuangco comes to his mind. As a client of Espiritu, she would visit the shop nonchalantly dressed in a man's shirt with sleeves rolled up and teamed with a *malong* and an Asian pouch bag and flat shoes when everybody wore heels. That was an individualistic style that was effortless and subtle.

Ramos' clients are afraid to take a risk. Before they start to experiment on a new look or silhouette the first thing they ask, "Who wears it?" or "Whom have you done it for?"

Brand consciousness has also created certain uniformity in look. "These brands promote a certain style of dressing and variations of that," he said. Filipinos don't have much option since merchandisers will buy clothes that are saleable and safe.

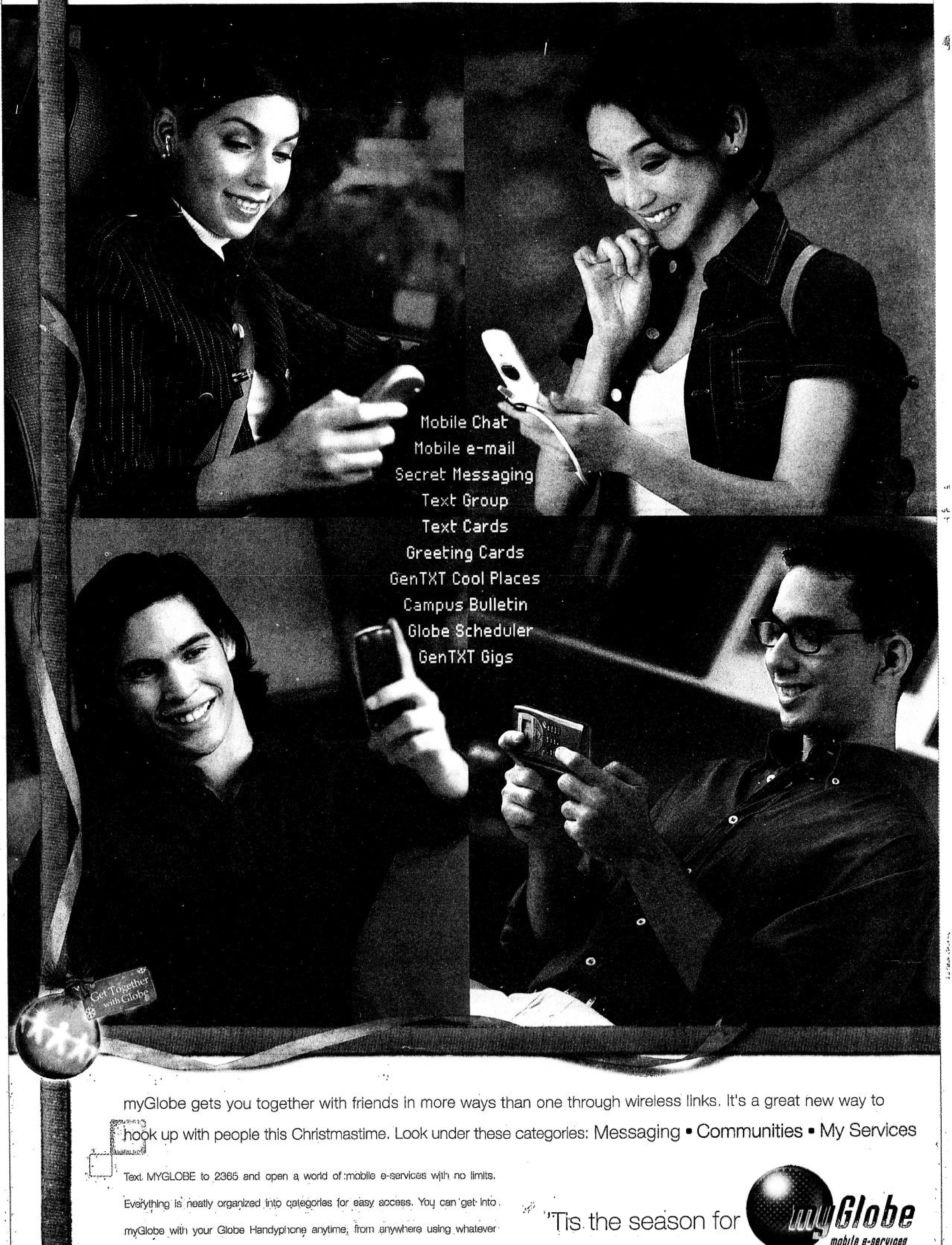
A designer can only do so much. At least, Ramos can point out the need to be brave and sometimes to depart from the ordinary.

VARIATION of a fully beaded bareback gown

MODEL: IDA CAMPO, CAL CARRIE
HAIR AND MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT
LOCATION: VILLA ESCUDERO
SPECIAL THANKS TO CONRADO ESCUDERO,
ANNA REGINA ESCUDERO
JOSE CLEMENTE III OF TRANS-INTER CORPORATION

EMBROIDERED *jusi* blouse with draped skirt in silk chiffon

Instant Reunion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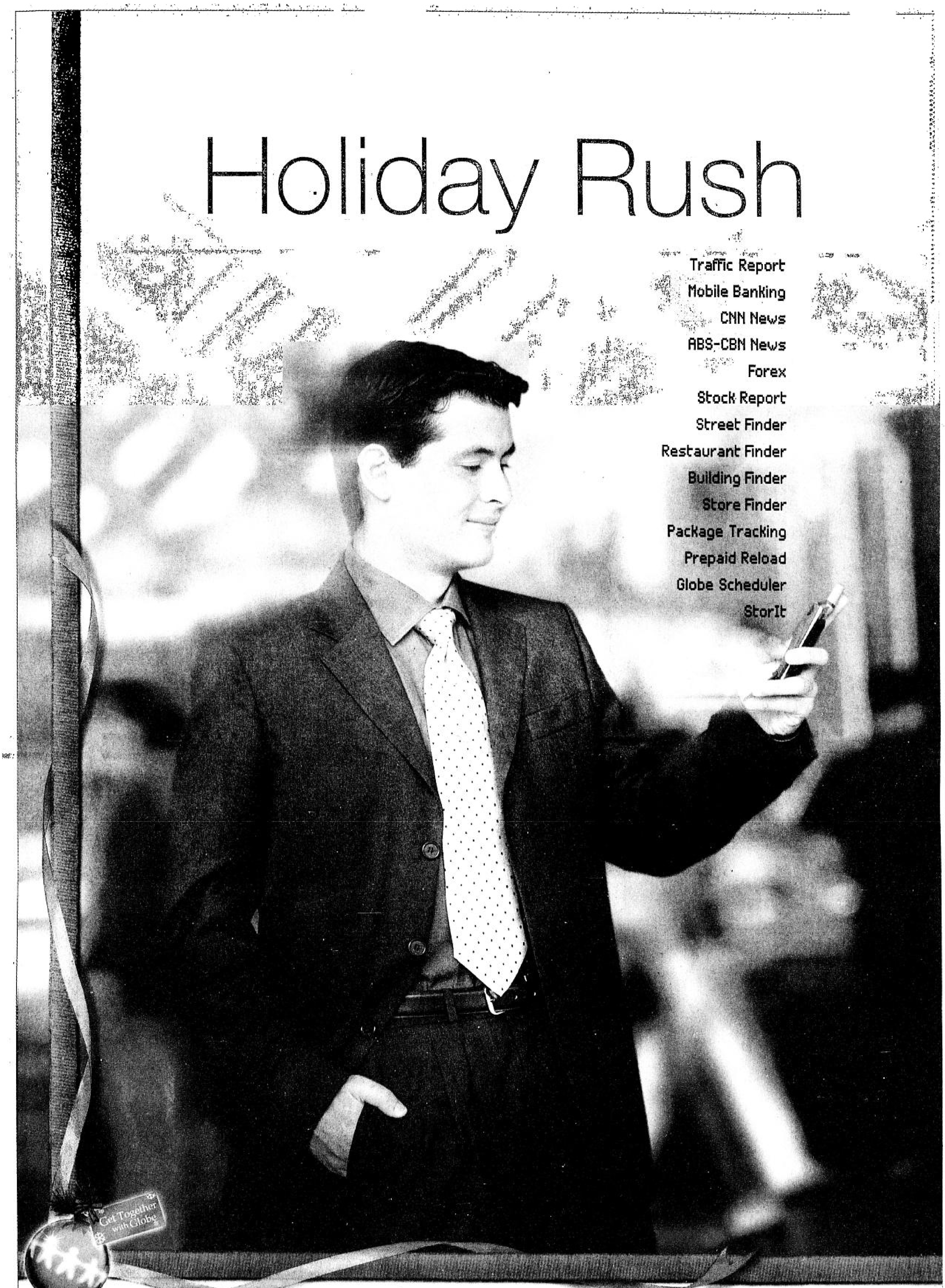
Holiday Rush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FRIDAY,
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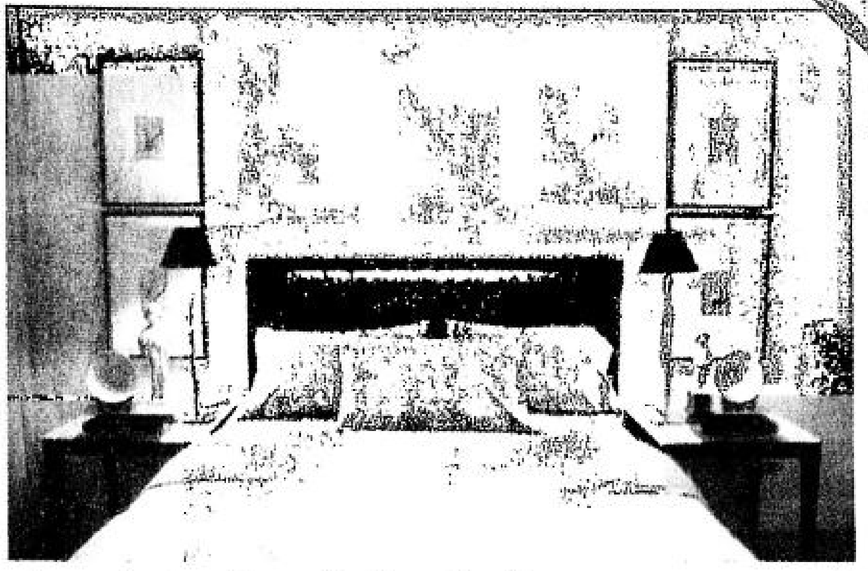
LIFESTYLE & Home



CLASSIC SYMMETRY. The headboard is made from dark rosewood serves as an accent in a neutral background. Both sides of the bed feature paintings by Mari de Vera, stick lamps, figurines and white bowls.

(Story on page D6)

Anton's chic take on past redux

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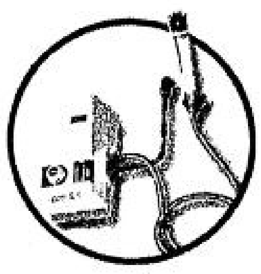

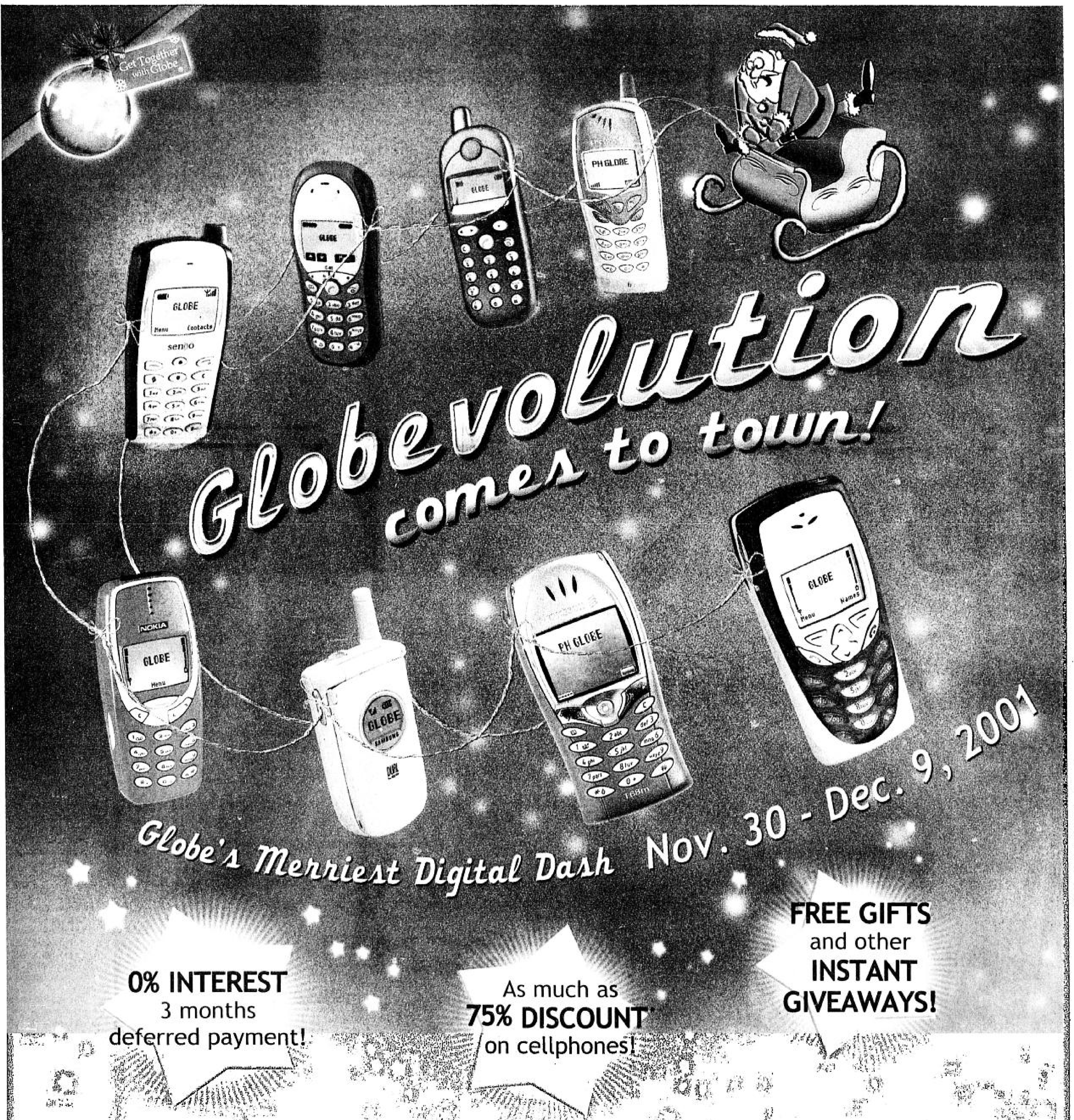
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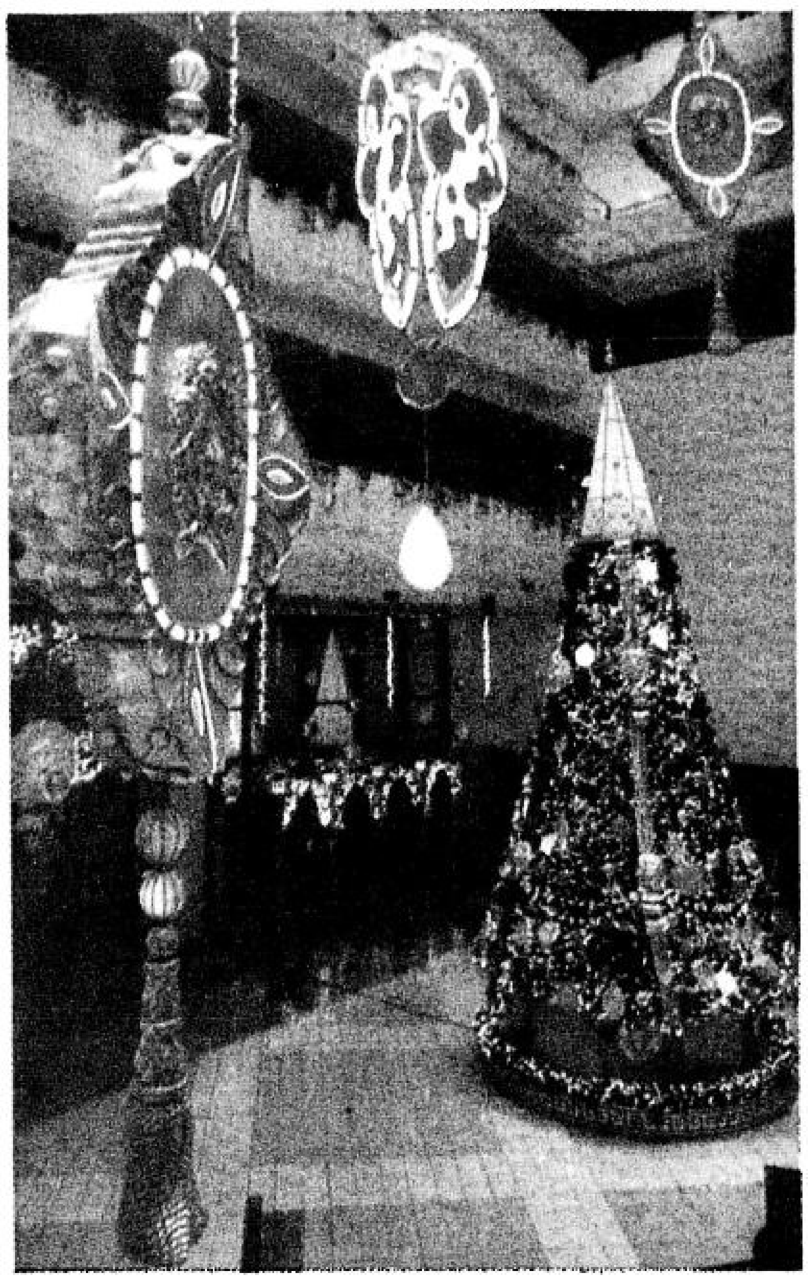
Celebrating Christmas with pomp



THE GRAND Atrium is decked with Italian Renaissance-style Christmas ornaments.

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall heralds the birthday of Jesus through "A Royal Birth at the Shang," a series of Yuletide activities.

The mall's holiday centerpiece is the live *belen* featured every Saturday and Sunday at 6 p.m. until Jan. 6. Titled "A King's Birth," it is a 45-minute show where mallers get to experience the Nativity scene, performed by Trumpets talents in costumes designed by Liz Batoctoy with the participation of the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus.

Directed by Audie Gemora and narrated by Freddie Santos, the show features theThree Kings coming from various levels of the mall to bring their gifts for the Baby Jesus, an angel descending from Level 4, life-size camels and donkeys, shepherds tending to their flock and other touching scenes. The finale is a tableau of the Holy Manger, amid echoes of Christmas carols and the magnificence of the mall's mesmerizing and glittering Christmas décor of golden cherubs, jewel and gold chain garland with lion head tiebacks and various sizes of Christmas balls in gold, silver and bright fashion colors at the mall's fountain area.

Today, Dec. 7, "Hangad," a nonprofit group of musically gifted professionals who has just released an album, will be singing praises in a one-hour concert billed "Handog sa Panginoong Hari" at the Grand Atrium. On Dec. 8, young talents from the Philippine High School for the Arts will have their "Pamaskong Pagtatanghal," a musical presentation of folk dances, ballet and chorale.

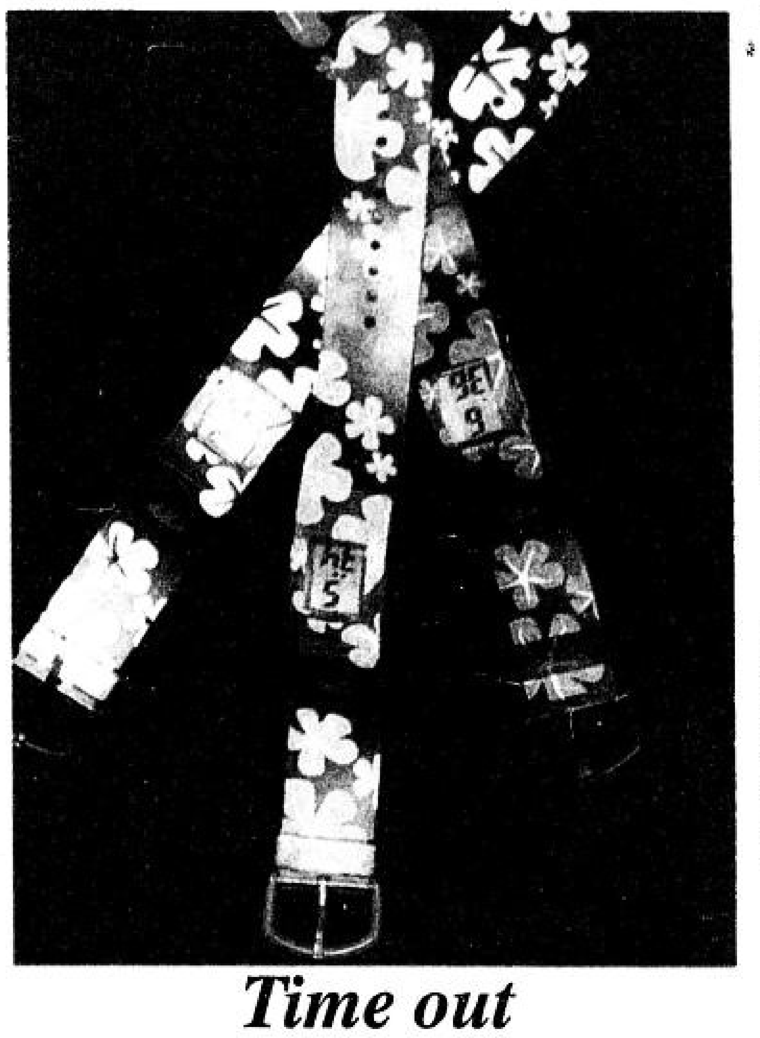
Catch world-class talent Robert Seña with the Ugoy-Ugoy Band and Gigi Valmores in a pre-Christmas concert billed "A King's Night" on Dec. 14 and get magical on Dec. 14 and 21 with the Philippine Opera Company in "A Royal Serenade," a special musical where kids and adults alike will be delighted to learn that Christmas celebration has its roots in ancient rituals and customs.

On Dec. 15 and 22, children ages 2-12 get a chance to participate in a storytelling by Alitaptap and a coloring contest from 10 a.m.-12 nn at the Grand Atrium, while on Dec. 16, the Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet will have 100 kids perform "The Nutcracker."

Dynamic Youth Chorale, a group of Filipino-Chinese singers, gather to share great music at the mall on Dec. 19 and 28, and the Makiling Ensemble is set for a one-night performance of Christmas carols on Dec. 19.

Tenor Nolyn Cabahug will perform with a 35-piece orchestra (mostly from PRO) and the Chiang Kai Shek Choir perform "Tribute to the King," a 1½-hour Christmas concert of Christmas tunes interspersed with narration on Dec. 23. Capping the holiday spectacle is the New Year presentation on Dec. 29 featuring pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz and friends.

For the holidays, Shangri-La Plaza is open daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m. To give shoppers more time to do their last-minute shopping, the mall will be open until 12 midnight Dec. 21-23. *Simbang gabi* schedules are at 8-9 p.m., Dec. 15-22, and 9-10 p.m., Dec. 23.



Time out

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BluPrint features small spaces

BLUPRINT Magazine sheds light on the negative concepts of "small" space as cloistered, limited and cramped. They can be transformed into creative, imaginative and, yes, even spacious.

Two areas in Rockwell are converted into the ostensibly impossible for those who refuse to let their imaginations run free—a "fast-food restaurant with an attitude" called Longrain, which assimilates Asian design in a meager 60-sqm area and the urban home of husband-and-wife design team of Wilfrid Nicholo and Marites Magcase of WM-Magcase Design Co., where "cramped and confined" is transmogrified into the heights of stylish living.

BluPrint also features three other options for aesthetic dining. In Makati, a petite and posh bistro and wine bar called Shiraz mixes minimal modernism into a tropical environment through the clever and calculated handling and integration of light, color and texture. In Café Pulilan, Bulacan the old meets the contemporary and where culture is defined as having a casual conversation over a cup of coffee. There is also Yaku in Ortigas Center, which is the epitome of simple yet elegant Japanese dining.

From the doorsteps of a photographer's studio apartment in QC, an initially cold and linear space can become a suitable and comfortable place for compact and minimalist living.

BluPrint also reminisces on an era long past in the Santos Ancestral House in picturesque San Miguel, Bulacan where we witness the intertwining of Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles.

Meanwhile, the future of Philippine products is envisioned in BluPrint's cover story on the Philippine Gift Industry. Here, BluPrint provides us with alternative solutions that would make our inherent Filipino ingenuity stand out and enable us to compete in a market where Philippine craft and design is threatened to take the back seat due to rapid globalization.

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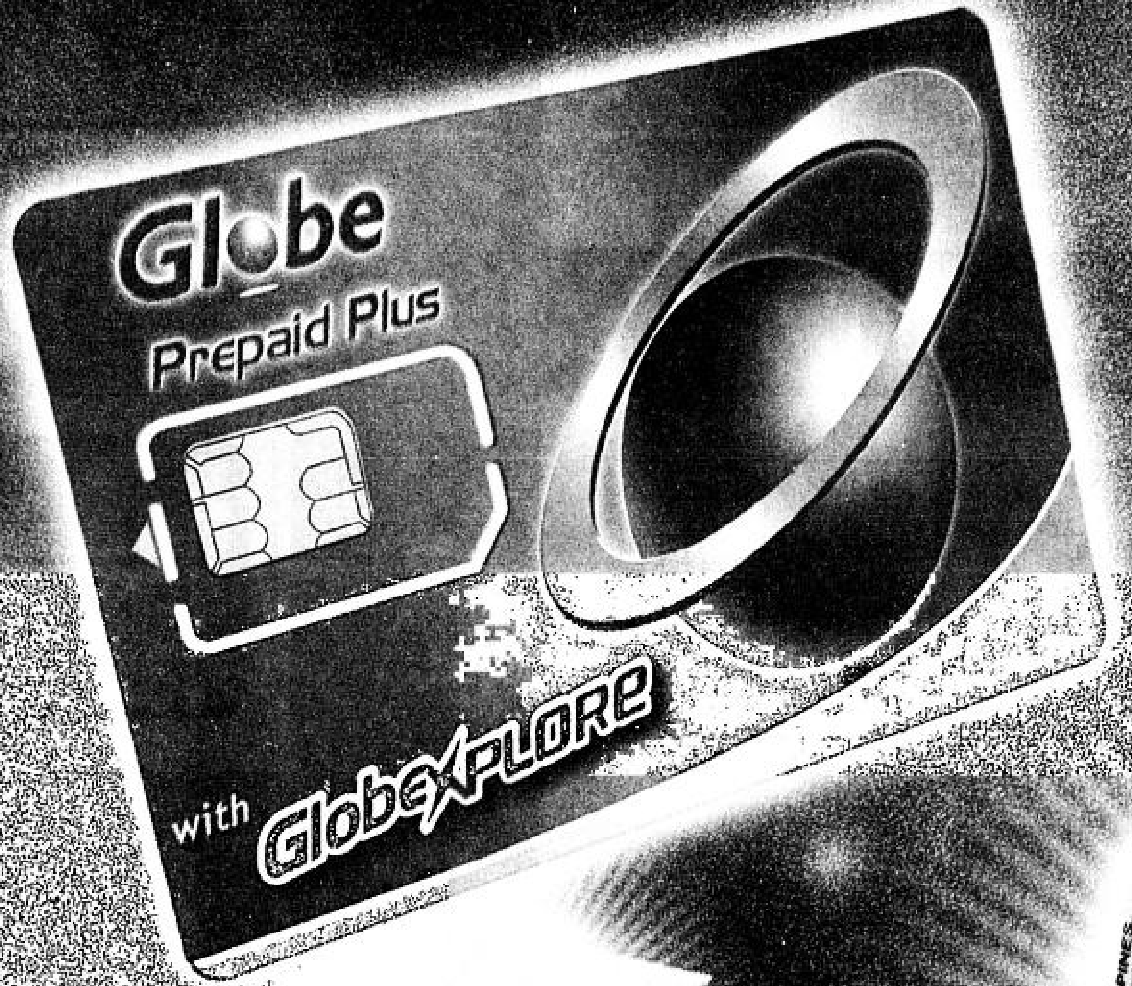
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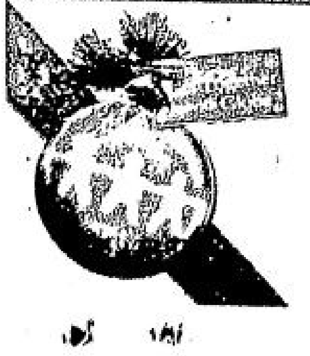

SEE FLYERS FOR MORE DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4048 series of 2001

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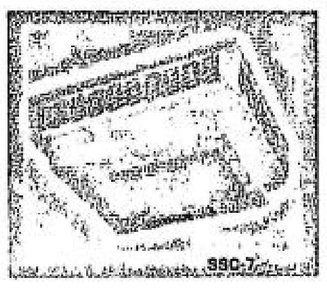

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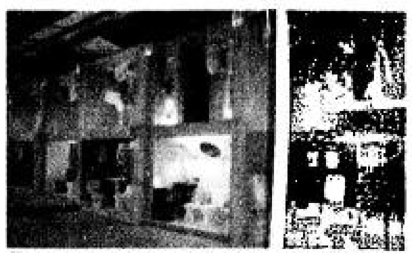
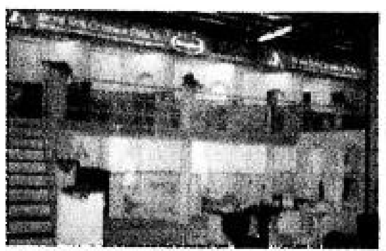


The unique 12-module bathroom showcase by HCG inside Federal Hardware-Makati



The 2-level Royal Tern bathroom showcase concept inside Federal Hardware-Makati

The tile section at Federal Hardware-Makati carries the widest assortment of local and imported tiles in the country.

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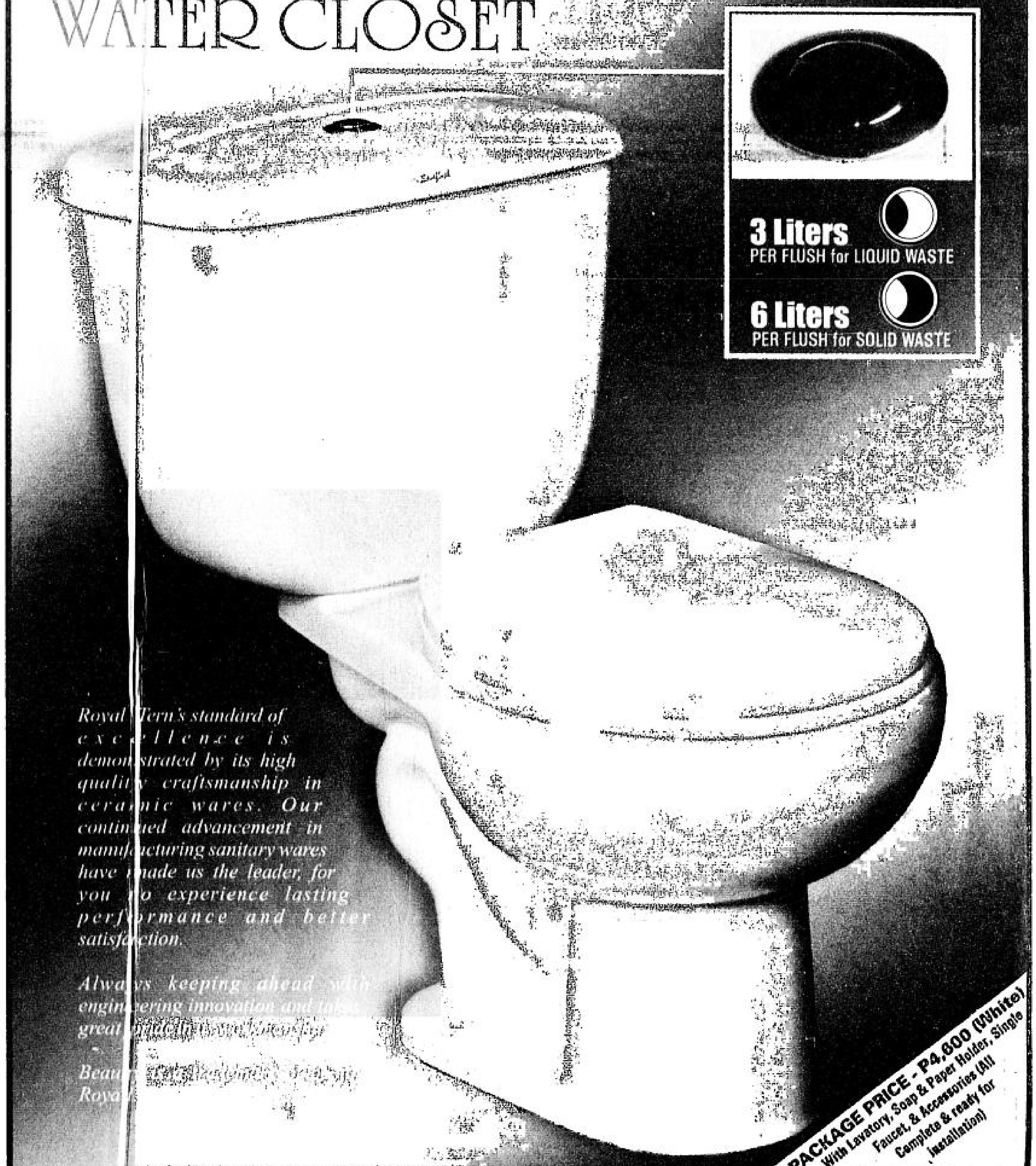

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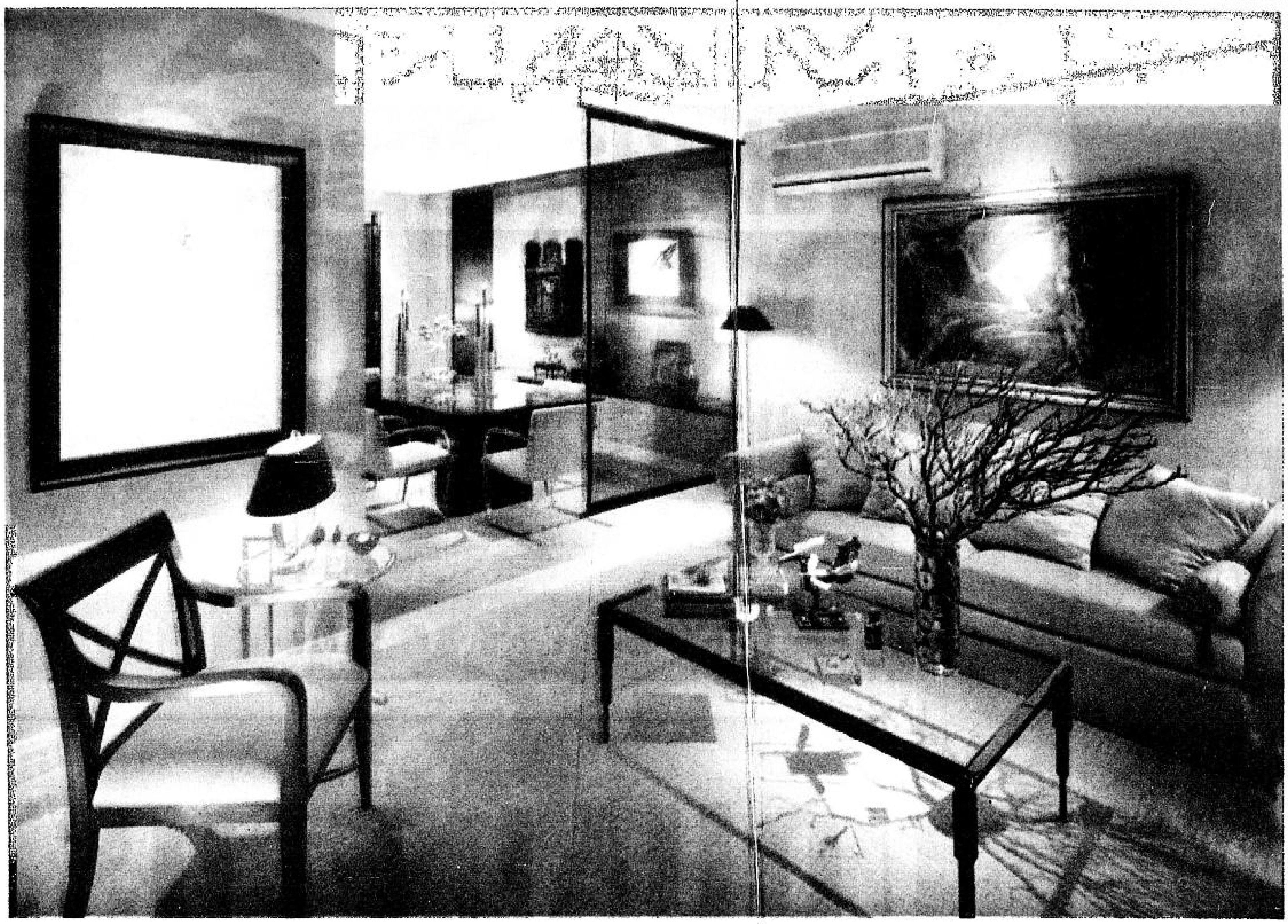

THE OVERALL scheme is soft taupe to serve as backdrop for the homeowner's artworks. The architect also plays on planes as interpreted by the paintings, the shapes of the furniture
the
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Anton's chic take on past redux

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor

To Anton Mendoza, if you don't learn from the past, you're bound to ruin the present, design-wise

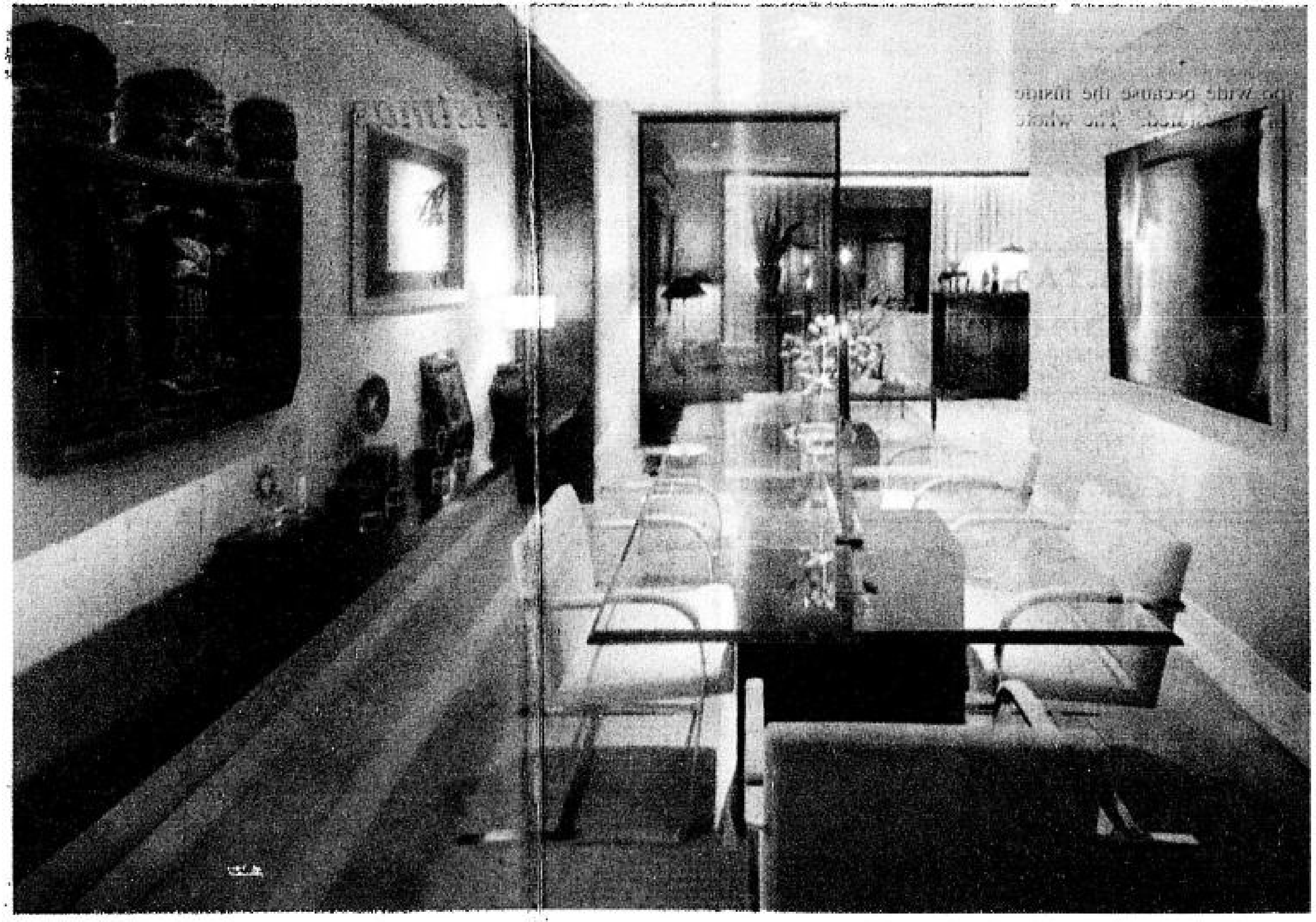
IT had been an entire month since his creative juices had flowed. Three interior design projects in Manila were in limbo because this near-desperate architect-interior designer just "couldn't think of anything." Then, ensconced in the palm of his favorite New York, an invisible hand nudged him to put pen to paper. In one hour, in one sitting, he finished the interiors of all three houses.

"I had just come from the airport. I took a shower and was waiting for friends to meet a dinner appointment. Suddenly, everything just came to me," the young man recalled. "I do a lot of things by instinct. I'm not one of those who has to find an explanation for everything."

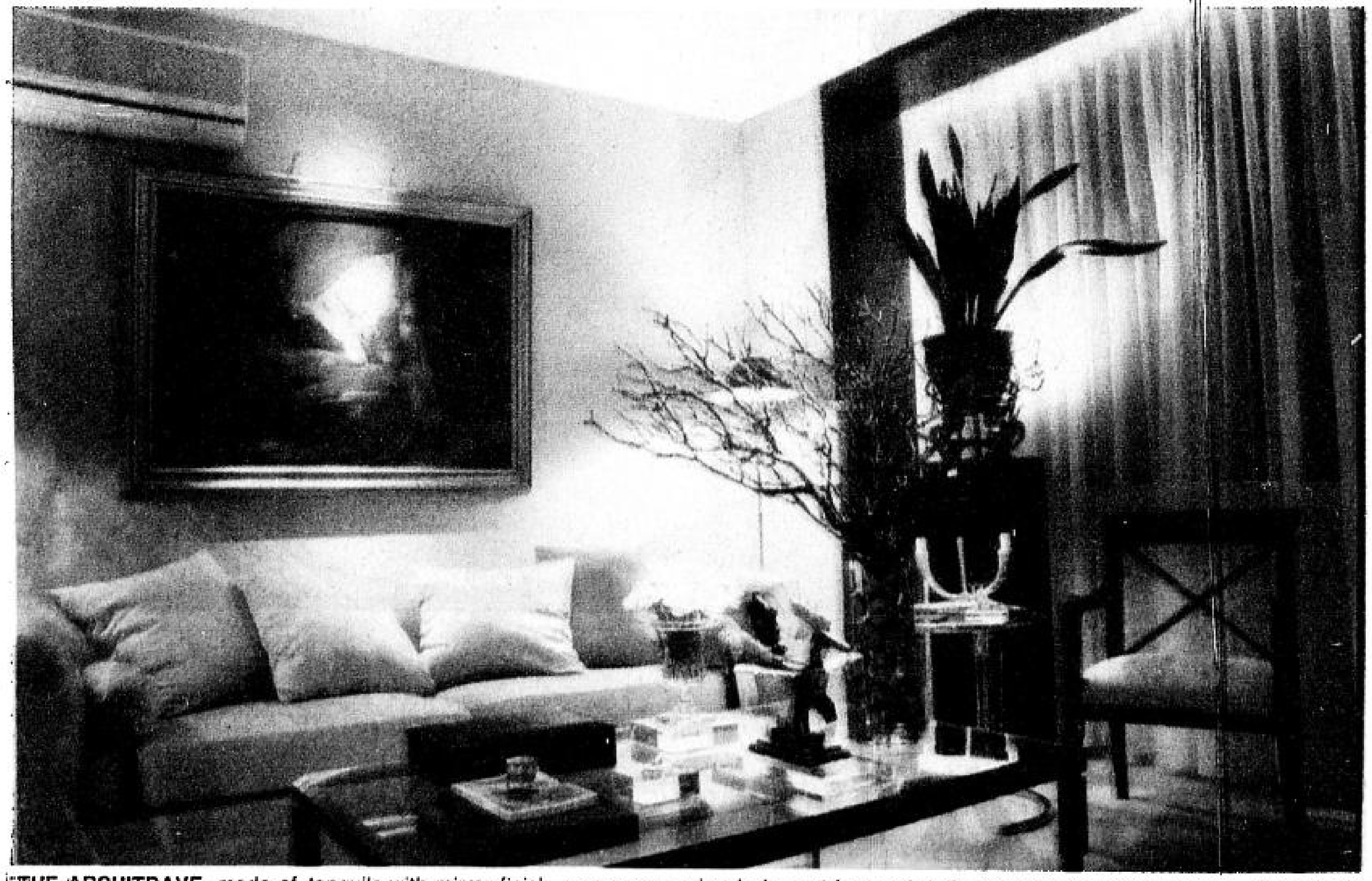
But then, travel does nurture his creative spirit. Each frequent short trip abroad, lasting from eight days to a month, either to buy things for his clients or to "de-stress," gives him inspiration and a different take on things.

He has his favorite spot on earth. "I go to New York to regenerate. I'm there often," J. Antonio Gonzalez Mendoza says with a smile. Anton (a.k.a. Tonichi) likes it in the Big Apple, has his own place there, and hints that he and his clients perhaps share the same taste in style because "80 percent" of them have lived in his favorite New York. Half his family—he is the eldest in a

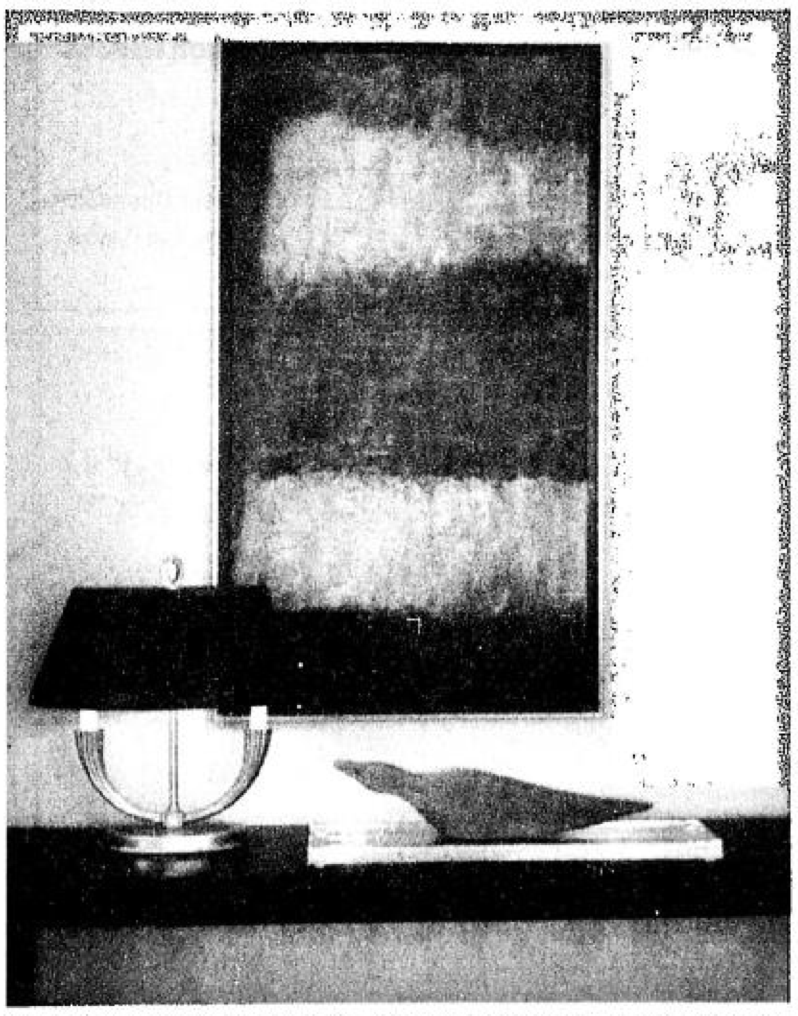
ANTON'S/ p.D7



THE SLEEK and modern lines of Mies Ven der Rohe's BRNO chairs, glass table and neutral scheme complement the Filipino antiques and abstractions.



THE ARCHITRAVE, made of *tanguile* with mirror finish, serves as a visual element in creating the illusion of a higher ceiling. Silk curtains and silk-and-suede upholstery evoke lightness and elegance. The reds and blues in the abstraction by a New York artist stand out in neutral color scheme.



CONTRAST FOR INTEREST. An abstract painting by Venezuelan artist Karim Marquez hangs above a *molave* sculpture of a duck by Napoleon Abueva. It was the National Artist's wedding gift to Mendoza's parents in 1962.

Anton's chic take on past redux

(From page D6)

brood of eight—has also made New York its home.

But 10 years today in the interior design field, Anton's design style has evolved from the silks and brocades of the period era, to minimalist, to simple contemporary, to what it is today: contemporary accented by a blend of the Spanish colonial and the tribal Filipino.

Filipino character

His new 82-sq-m flat in Makati's business district showcases this new design interest. He has imbued the space in his flat with a strong Filipino character that, as local artist Yola Johnson might describe it, is nonetheless not "hardcore ethnic." Anton's new style speaks in a universal contemporary language the Filipino way.

Don't look for reclining or standing Buddhas in Anton's flat. There is none. But hanging on a wall in a niche is a 17th-century *relleve* or relieve (bas relief) in *balayong* of St. Catherine ("Santa Catalina") holding up a stylized feather ("the mark of martyrs," he volunteers) and clutching a sword. Near the edge of the saint's robe is the head of a man she has beheaded.

"It is quite an outstanding piece,' Anton isn't shy to say, and it is the piece that triggered his foray into his new design interest.

The Santa Catalina *relleve* is a family heirloom that is the focal point of a big niche on a wall of his flat. A unique collection of aureoles or *aureolas*—old heavenly crowns worn by sacred personages and propped on clear Plexiglas or black wooden bases—further stresses that the old religious can be wed with the modern.

A study of a large painting by Fernando Zobel hangs a certain distance from the *relleve*. A 1926 black and white photograph, framed in silver, of a handsome couple, sits alongside the collection of *aureolas*. The couple in the photograph, taken either in Manila or Madrid, are Anton's grandparents.

Of his collection, Anton points out that the 12-star aureole ("for the 12 tribes of Israel") is worn solely by the Blessed Virgin while the *santos* wear the *potencias* and *rayos* or rays. He started collecting the *aureolas* and *rayos* barely two months ago, after he found a piece that interested him in Mabini, Manila. Today, he has a 10-piece collection of aureoles and rays: one is gold-plated; three are in sterling silver; the rest in brass.

Anton proudly points to a bureau or *comoda* from Nueva Ecija in polished dark wood. It used to store priests' vestments. He is reluctant to open its doors too wide because the inside has yet to be "polished, restored." The whole piece, he says, has to be restored to its original state, minus the dents and pockmarks that the years have carved into it.

Novel approach

Yes, this is Anton's novel approach to antiques: restore them to their original state, with only some exceptions, such as the *santos*. Furniture pieces "were not intended to have pockmarks. Before, the thinking was to leave antiques the way they are. But you don't have to be so literal so that antiques have to be distressed and worn. Now, the trend is to restore a piece to its original grandeur."

More importantly, Anton wants to convince his countrymen that the arts and artifacts from traditional and Spanish colonial Philippines are treasures aching to be discovered, acquired and shown off right here at home. In a contemporary setting for the appreciation of the rest of the world.

Where else in Asia but in the Philippines can you find religious artifacts influenced by the art and culture of a Western nation that is Spain, Anton asks. The Philippines is quite special in its being "Spanish Asia," as Anton likes to put it, and being the richer from that influence.

"People have forgotten how beautiful our Filipino culture is," he says, pointing out the rich amalgam of cultures that it really is. Why look to India, Myanmar, Bali or Thailand for what is beautiful, he asks. Why travel so far to buy mere reproductions of antiques off sidewalks of such countries when beautiful Filipino pieces are authentic, accessible, and affordable?

A stroll along Manila's Mabini Street can yield a treasure trove of finds which, unfortunately, is ignored by Filipinos but is snapped up by foreigners and shipped out by the container load, to the dismay of concerned antique dealers.

Anton points to the 1,500 antique mannequin-like local pieces that Elton John bought up through local representatives and shipped to his home in Los Angeles. Elton plopped some of those pieces atop his coffee table. The result landed him and the pieces on the cover of the prestigious magazine Architectural Digest.

Might not the prices of local antiques be too high for the ordinary Filipino pocketbook? "No," he says. "Filipinos are just not interested enough in buying their own."

Modern renditions

Anton likes his spaces to be modern renditions of the Filipino past, just like the Thais' and Indonesians' modern renditions of their cultures. "I'm striving for something more cultural and presenting it in a world-class manner so it's beautiful not only to Filipinos but also to others." He sums it up: "I want to place the old and the new and the tribal and the cultural in a modern, contemporary setting."

He remembers his shift from the classic, silk-and-brocade period style to the modern. "I learned to be a modernist in Paris. I had friends in Paris who asked, 'How could you do all this? You're so young and yet all your designs are of the past! How could you just do a repetition of what was already done before?' My friends were very nationalistic, very culture-oriented, but they were doing excruciatingly modern designs." They had made their point: Anton made his shift.

Still, he knows that his good grasp of the "classic orders" has helped him "to be a good modernist." He adds, "Modern design evolved from the classics. Although my work is now modern, very contemporary, it has a timeless quality due to my good comprehension of the classics."

J. ANTONIO
Gonzalez Mendoza

The moment the door opens to his done-up space, says this graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, "I want it breathtaking, stunning. I wouldn't say 'dramatic' because that would be too dramatic a word," he laughs. "I want you to be stunned by the simplicity, the beauty."

And what can't one find in his done-up space? "Lack of style. Also, I would never put anything that I wouldn't put in my own house. And mediocrity. I never have mediocrity in my work."

Anton's flat has a restful aura about it. The entire space comes across as interiors that are quite cosmopolitan and could just as easily be in New York as in Manila. The dominant color is taupe. The couch leaning against a wall of the living room is chockfull of comfortable throws. A glass-topped wrought-iron coffee table, which Anton designed, holds a vase of fresh flowers. At the center stands an old Filipino *sarimanok* in wood and etched bone.

"People ask me where I got the *sarimanok*. I tell them it's Filipino," he says.

He likes abstract art and has a Gus Albor, a Karim Marquez, a Lao Lian Ben on his walls. He also has a signed Zobel print on a wall of the kitchen. The location of the print has raised eyebrows among his friends.

"A Zobel and only in the kitchen!" they chorus. But Anton likes to play with his pieces, and the Zobel in the kitchen does lend the space formality and elegance. "You wouldn't think it's the kitchen," he says naughtily.

He keeps old polychrome *santos* in his flat, the worn character of the pieces set off by the modern glass curtains often found in Anton's spaces. He doesn't like the hassle of cleaning heavy Roman shades. Glass curtains are washing machine-friendly, he swears.

He has a 180-year-old fine silk-looking black bamboo screen that used to shade a window in an Imperial house in Shanghai, China. The screen divides the living and dining rooms without blocking the view to either space. One of the modern, directional halogen lamps dotting the flat's ceiling gently lights the top of the screen.

A luxurious carpet covers the flat's floors.

Work in progress

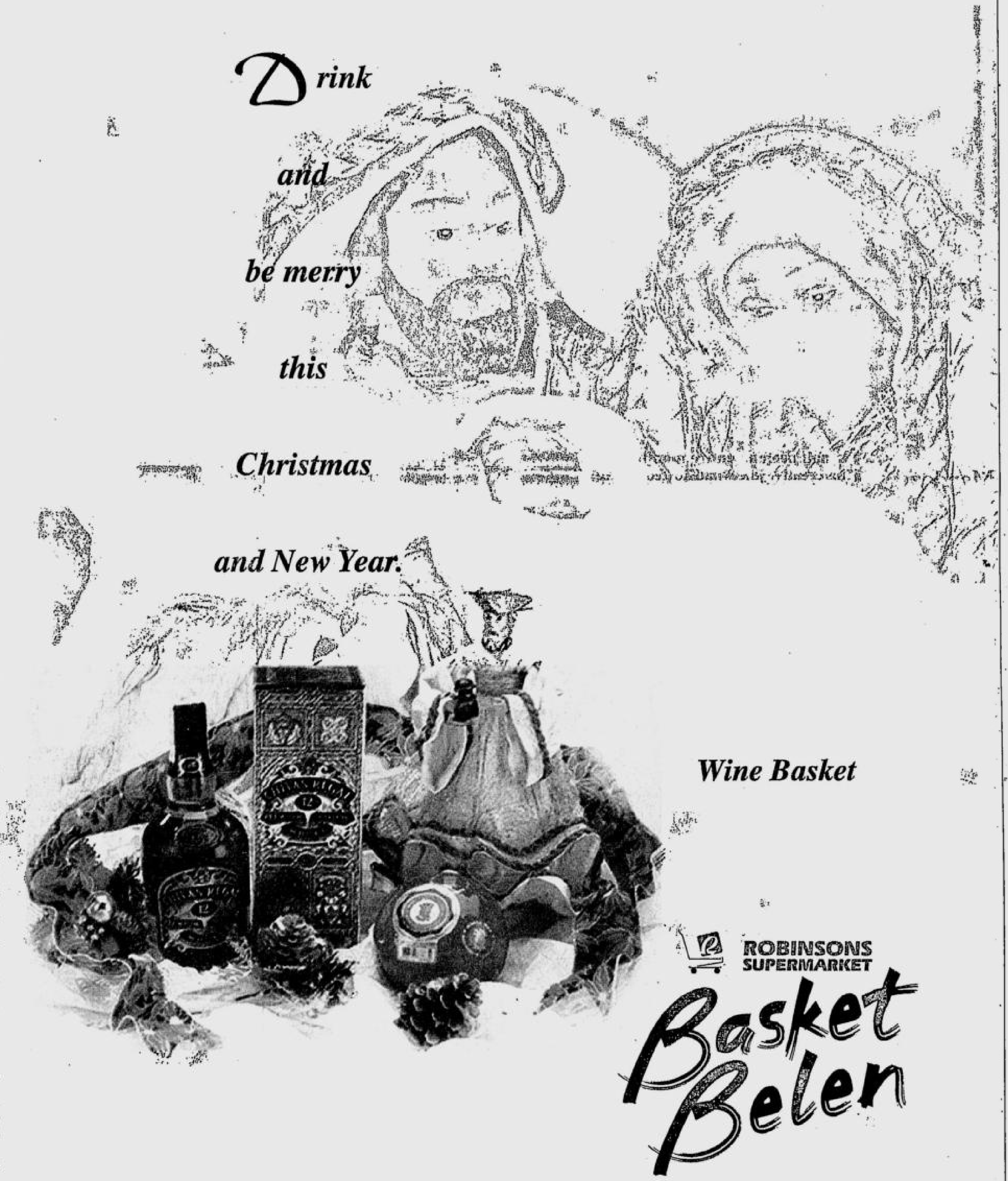
The lone bedroom in the apartment is a work in progress. For a change, Anton says, he isn't pressured into finishing the room to catch a housewarming date. Perhaps silk will cover the wall behind the headboard, he says, thinking aloud.

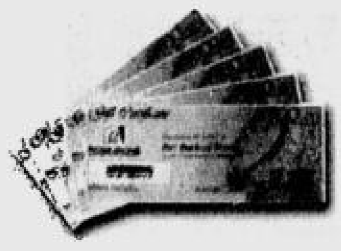
His kitchen? "I don't have one. It's more like a bar," he smiles sheepishly. He lets on that at least once in his life, he survived for two years with only two dining chairs. "I had no dinners. I don't cook. I had the luxury of not having to decide immediately how to do up the space… I was not under pressure to buy something quick."

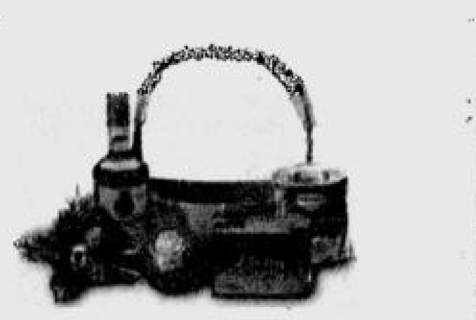
He enjoys the same luxury today.

"I haven't moved into the flat. I want everything done perfectly," he says, and that takes time. Perfect as in what? His mom raised her children on starched cloth napkins and toilet paper folded on one end. "You get used to these things and you look for them."

ANTON'S/ p.D8







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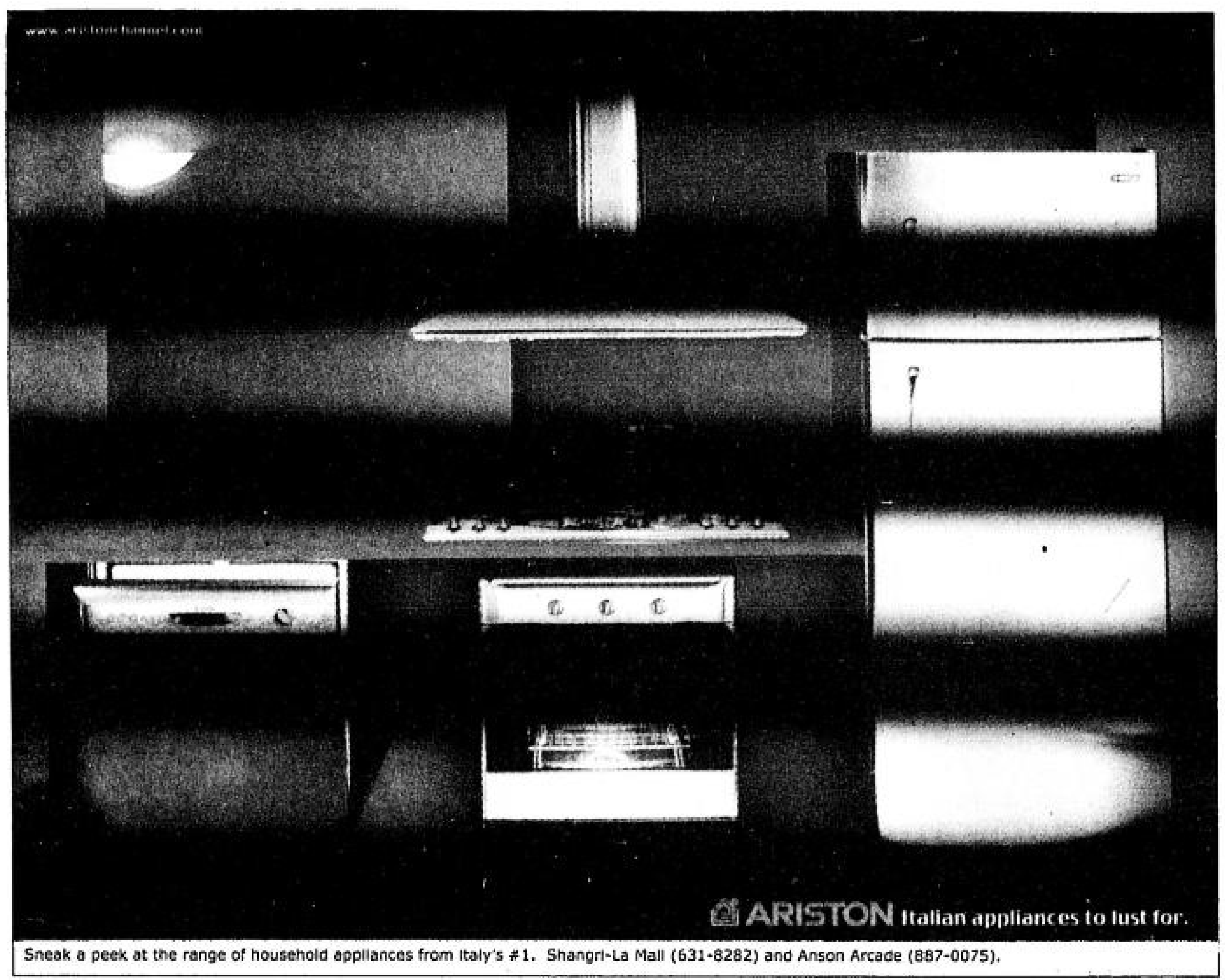
ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET

Top potters' works in new store

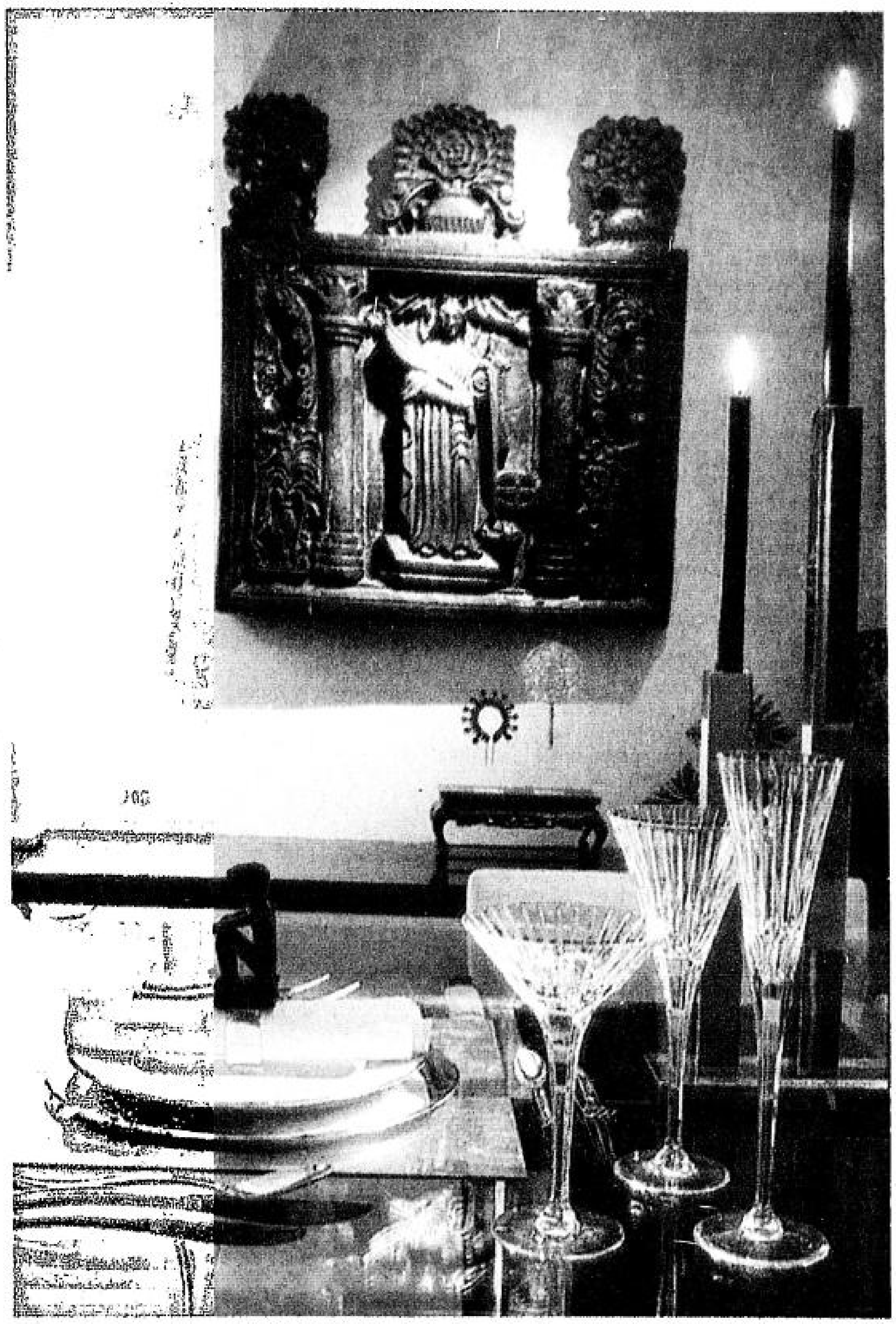
CREATIVE Pottery, a shop providing a glimpse into the fascinating world of pottery, is now open at the Greenbelt Mall.

Artists whose works are displayed in the shop include Tessy Pettyjohn, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Monique Ignacio, Pete Cortes, Tensie Bello, Boboy Roxas, Juliet Lao, Ging Pajaro, Bong Figaroa, Dr. Peppon Rondain, Dedette Bautista, Poppi Laudico, Bing-bing Agbayani, Ester Mercurio, Edward Giron and Henry Rio.



ARISTON Italian appliances to lust for.

Sneak a peek at the range of household appliances from Italy's #1. Shangri-La Mall (631-8282) and Anson Arcade (887-0075).



ARCHITECT J. Antonio Mendoza goes nationalistic by deviating from the popular taste of the Philippine élite who fancy Orientalia or Balinese artifacts. A family heirloom, a 17th-century bas relief, serves as a backdrop for the table setting. Western crystals and china are complemented by a Filipino *bulol*, or rice granary icon, which serves as napkin holder.

Anton's chic take on past redux

(From page D7)

It took him only three weeks to do the living and dining rooms. This was despite coming to do the work only in his spare time on "lunch breaks or 10 p.m." The work was fast because "I knew the look I wanted and I had all my old furniture from Carmen Apartments (in Manila)."

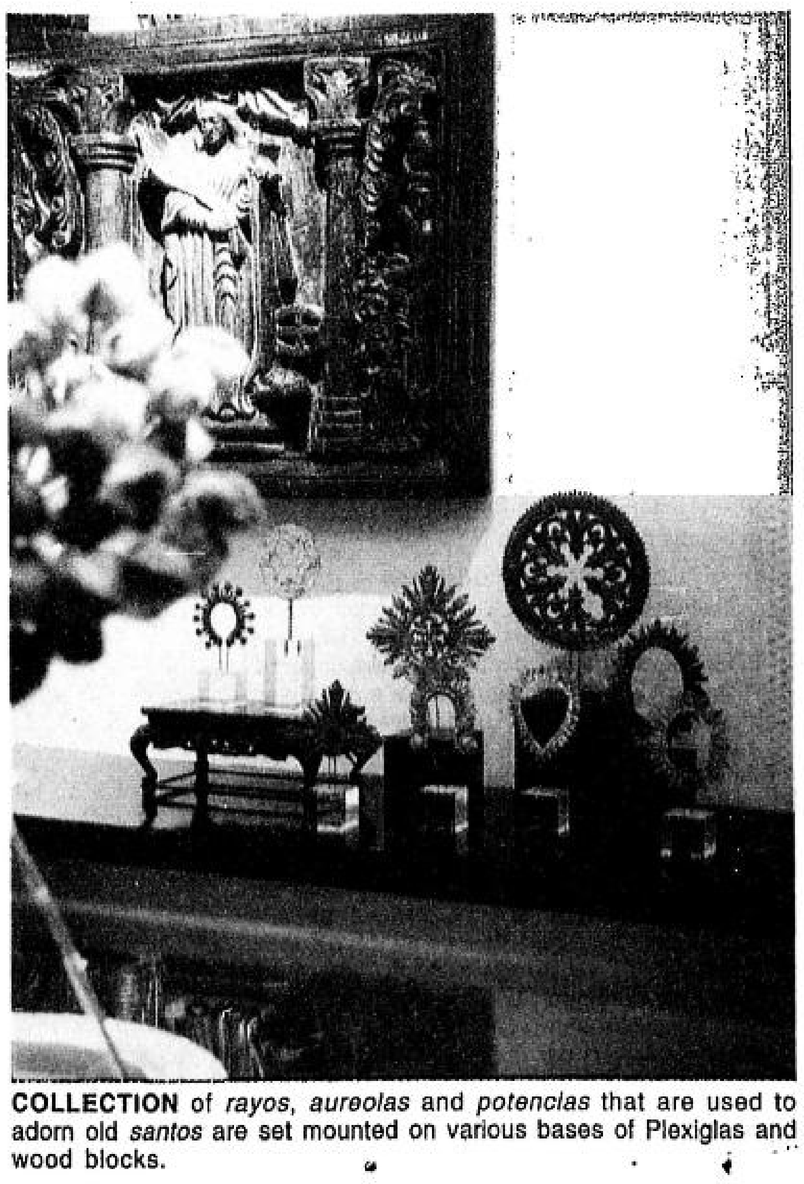
Unlike being answerable to clients, being answerable only to himself meant chucking the need for quotations, presentations and even approvals for colors. "Say, I see an old table in Mabini. A client can huff and puff and exclaim, 'You're not going to put that piece of junk in my house.' When you get things for yourself, nobody complains." That makes the job go much faster.

Anton now has six projects in the bag: five interiors and one house in Ayala Alabang he is to design as architect. Not bad at all, considering the economic crunch and for one who really wanted to be a diplomat first, then a hotel and restaurant man and last an architect.

"I am very poor in math. I can remember only birthdays, not formulas," he jests, proud anyway that he is now an architect. He first joined an architectural firm then "went through the backdoor and did interior design. It's much, much easier and the turnover is very quick," he winks. Where interior design projects can last a month to four months, building houses can take from 12-14 months.

What is the best thing that a client, typically in his or her 30s or 40s, can say about J. Antonio Gonzalez Mendoza's work?

This, in JAGM's words: "That's always what I wanted."



COLLECTION of *rayos, aureolas* and *potencias* that are used to adorn old *santos* are set mounted on various bases of Plexiglas and wood blocks.

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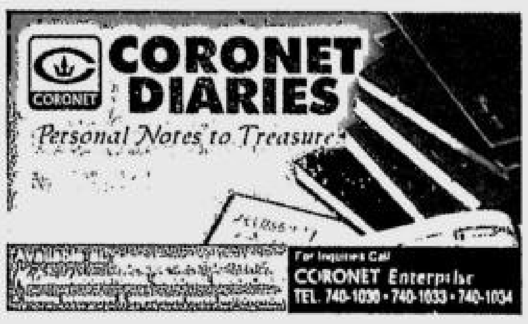

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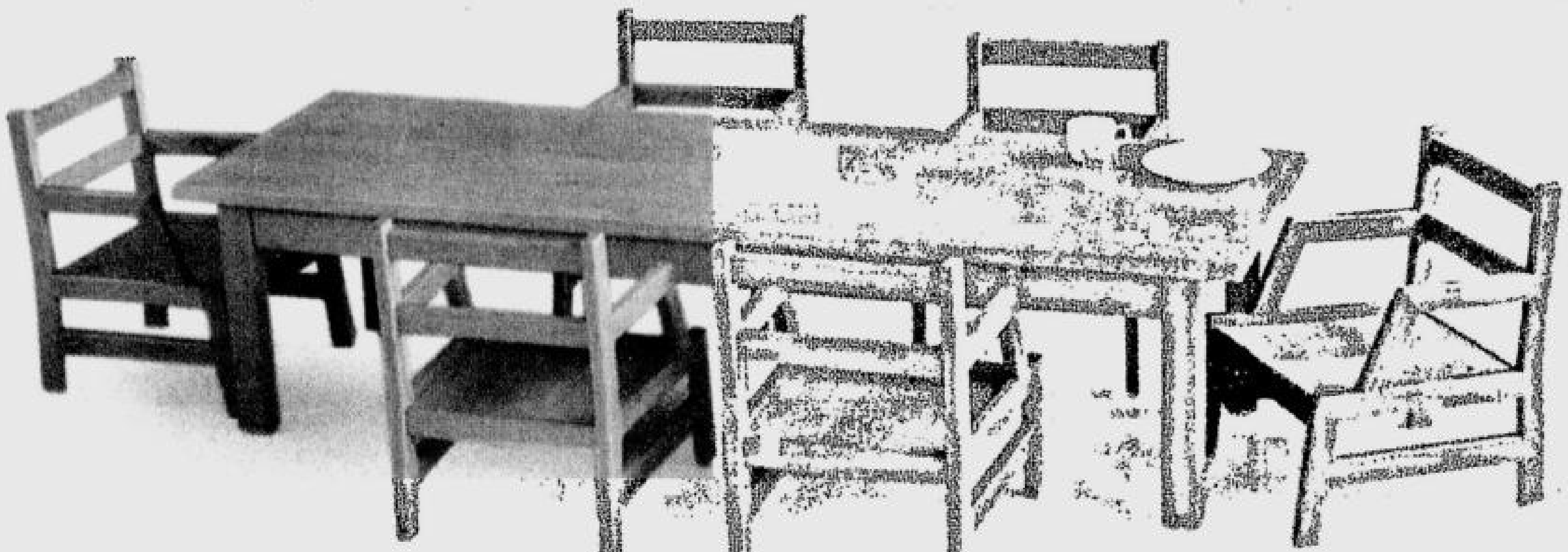
Kids' rooms can be both fun and safe



BY CATHY SALDAÑA-NOLIDO
Contributor
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

A WIDE array of creative ideas comes to mind when designing children's spaces. The task is a whole new challenge for any designer—layout and patterns, design elements, dimensions, colors, safety, materials and surfaces. As more homeowners become conscious of the nuances of good design, it is an absolute must that attention be paid to the rooms and spaces that children use and not just the living and dining areas that are the home's frontlines.

It used to be that a child's bedroom would simply be filled with vibrant colors; a bed would be purchased from the local mall and toys would fill the empty spaces. Times have changed though. Designing has become so specialized for some that working on children's spaces is in itself a specific realm of line and movement. A wonderful mind shift is taking place just as the lines of predictability are now being erased. Myriad details and a wealth of accessories that make a home child-friendly have to be considered. These days, boys' rooms are not automatically blue and girls' rooms pink.

Are you doing your home right now? Thinking of renovating it? Expecting a baby? This brief summary of some design principles for children's spaces may help.

Layout and patterns

The growth of children is just so amazing. Thus, spaces should be flexible enough to match their growing years. A good room design is one that can be converted to fit the child's needs as he/she grows up, without compromising on budget and safety.

Size is relative, as this is dependent on the architect's floor plan, the condominium unit's configurations or the townhouse's divisions. Great rooms can be created out of an attic space, with crawl corners on the sides. A small room adjoining the master bedroom can be the baby's nursery in the beginning, then converted into

KIDS/p.E4

TABLE FOR SIX. Create sturdy pieces for children from quality wood, ensuring that they do not topple over. In a segment of your home, lay out furniture to create the children's own comfort zones.

When designing children's spaces, the key word is creativity

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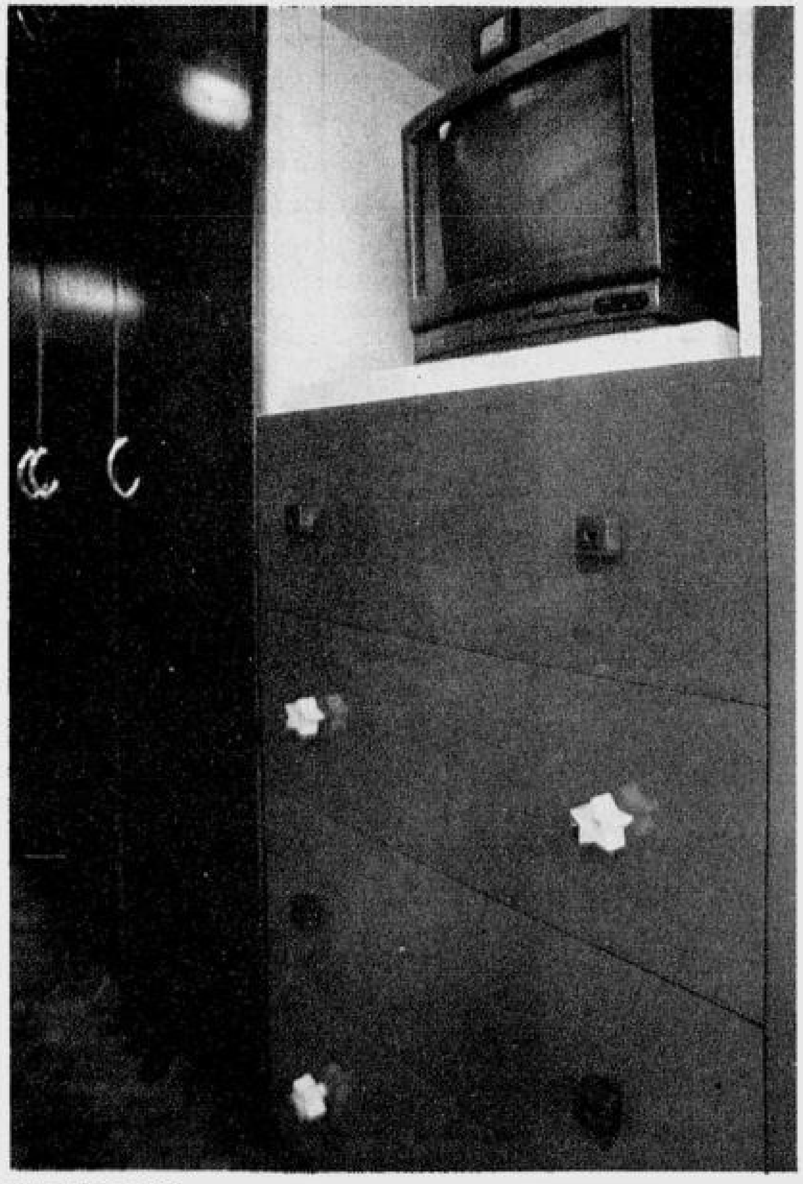

SHAPES AND FORMS. Apart from toys, various forms and shapes can be found in the form of pulls, knobs, as crawl accents and floor stickers. Shapes and forms can be created with fabric. Nice and washable, it can be used to wrap around edges and legs of chairs or tables.

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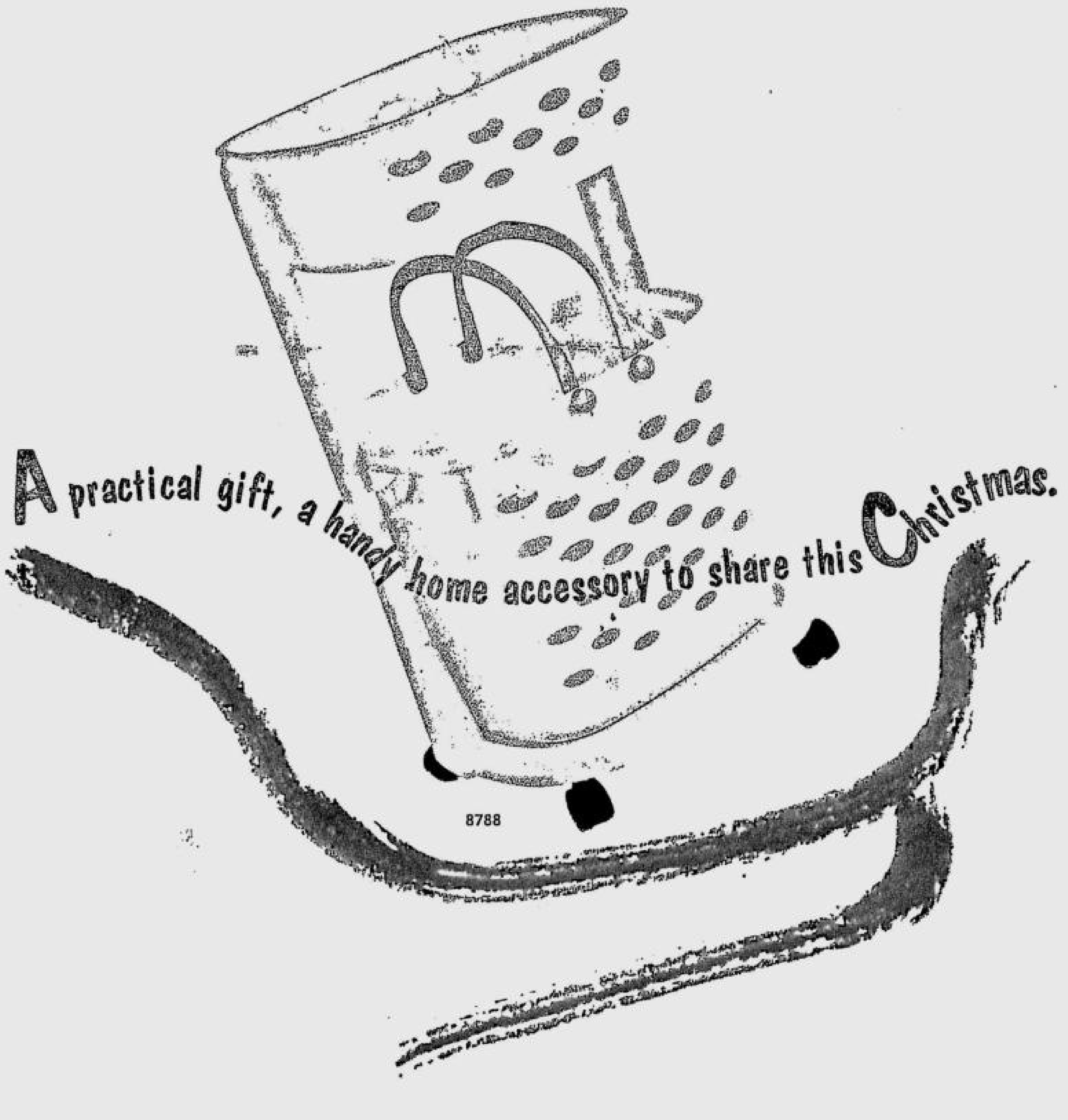

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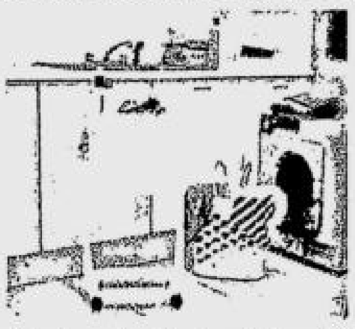


Green-prone in Singapore

REFLECTIONS on one of the man-made lakes within the SBG property.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ADRIAN V. LIZARES
Contributor

ONCE again I'm on the road. The tirelessness of travel is amazing when compared with the terrific energy one expends on uninspired work.

And so I find myself checking in for the early flight to Singapore, that fabulous garden city sitting on the equator. Having been there a couple of times before, I find that further prodding from pals to visit it is needless as it is always a welcome treat to drop by one of Asia's premier cities.

On board, my traveling companions and I make our plans. Our main reason is to observe and participate in two auctions of South East Asian art. We are also to keep a dear friend company while she embarks on yet another phase of her life. Someone looks at me and says, "You'll be in garden heaven." And there's so much shopping, food and sightseeing, too.

For a Singapore first-timer, arriving in this city is such a pleasant experience. One immediately notices the profuse greenery, from inside the airport terminal to all points of the city. Plants are to Singapore as slot machines are to Las Vegas. Driving into the city, my constant traveling companion points at the lush and well-planned surroundings. He adds that Metro Manila is the complete opposite: a "chaotic mass enveloped in grime."

THE *DILIENIA sp.* (left) has become a common ornamental used as low shubbery.

Surely, we all have our opinions of Metro Manila, but the consensus is we have a lot of work to do. For one, the greening of Manila is not an impossible feat. But something has to be done about those overhanging telephone wires and television cables.

Spice garden

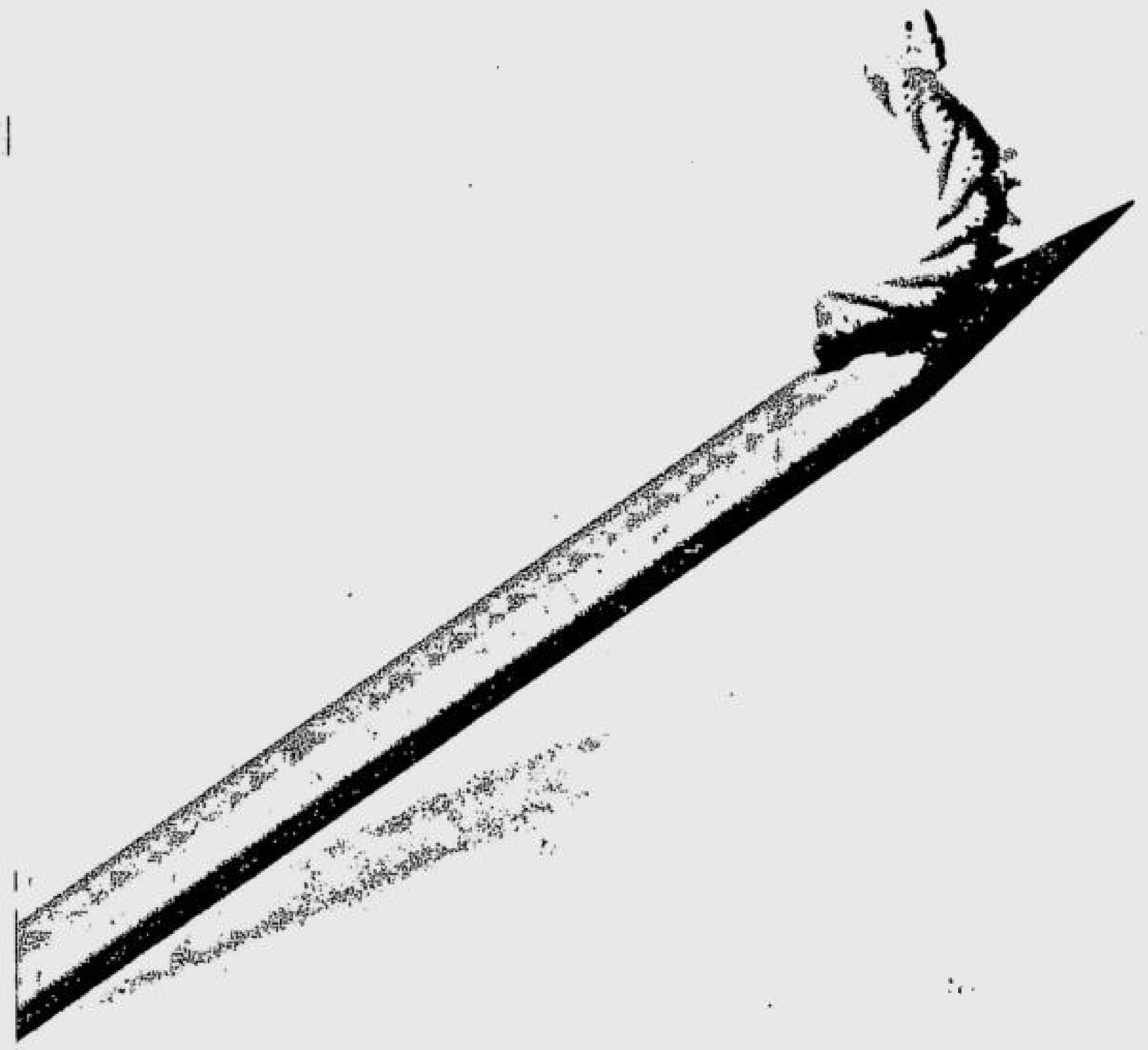
There is no arguing about Singapore being *the* garden city. Just take a look from any high-rise or take a stroll in any of the city's streets. Even the walk from the apartment to the neighborhood bookstore traverses two parks and cobblestone paths under the shade of tropical rainforest trees. The city itself is a splendid botanical environment.

GREEN/p.E8

INSCRIPTIONS of Chinese characters make this bonsai very mysterious.

THE RED shoots of new leaves emerge from this Asiatic lily

RED! Sealing wax palms, cordylines and acallyphas in this plant grouping.



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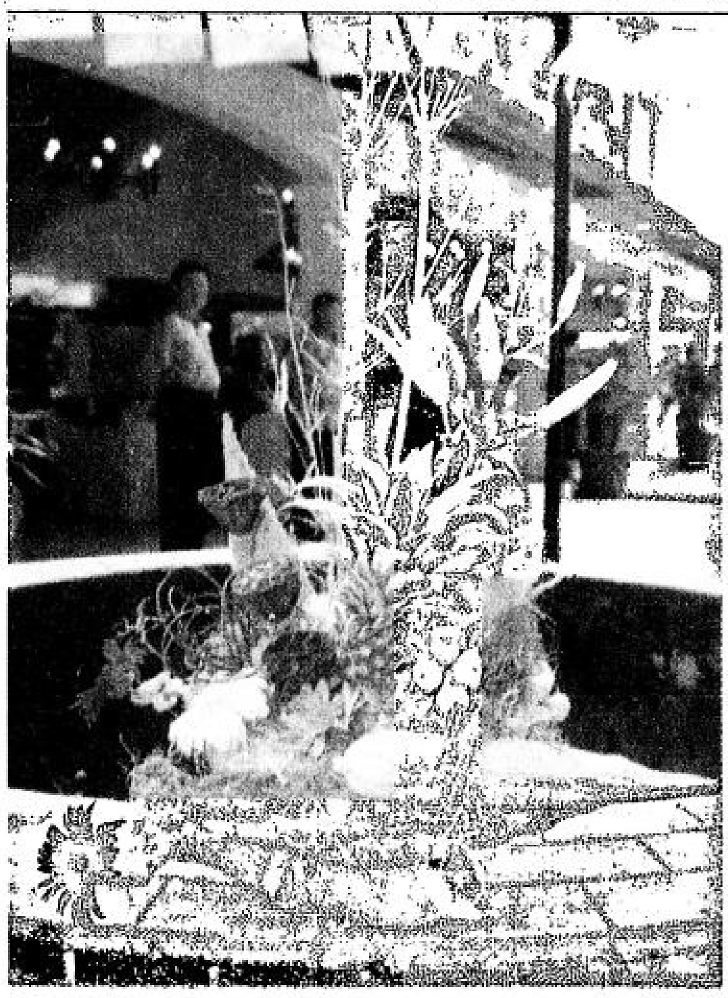


COUNTRY basket arrangement

FRUITS and flower arrangement with structuring

Floral Cup brings florists together

By Tita V. Giron
Contributor
Photos by Betoy Johnson

FATHER Blanco's botanical garden was just the right setting for the "Rachy Z. Cuna Floral Cup—An Award for Floral Excellence." Cool trees and colorful ornamental plants provided a perfect ambience for the flower arranging competition where florists and their fresh flowers were evidently in their best elements. Judges and spectators, as well, remained cool throughout the competition that lasted from morning to sundown.

In the world of florists and floral art designing, the event was a gathering of celebrities, and the Rachy Cuna Cup was a trophy to covet. To name names, there were Nena Tantoco of Rustan's Flower Shop, Lynn Sunico of Makati Skyline, Pacita Cuna and Father Pedro Galende of San Agustin Church.

VIPs from the florist industry included Dr. Nikki Chatto of King Louis Flower Farm, Klaus Freund, Rex Puentespina of Davao City, Cecile Dinglasan and Tita del Rosario of Ikenobo-Ikebana.

Couturier Danilo Franco was there, not as guest, but as contestant in the amateur floral arrangement category.

Competition

There were two categories and one surprise number for competition. In the professional level, contestants were limited to florists who have won or placed in previous international and national competitions. The amateur category was open to floral arts enthusiasts and florists who have not won any place or award in national contests.

Surprisingly, the amateur competitors included students, businessmen, housewives and enthusiasts. Franco did not surprise folks who have known the designer's obsession for new experiences, which he described as "widening one's dimension in life." Friends in the media remember him as art director of the newspaper Daily Express before he became famous couturier, gym habitue, cook, local events organizer, painter, etc. Floral arrangement is one of his latest preoccupations.

PAPIER mâché horse from Paete for New Year's centerpiece

RACHY Cuna with first prize winner Nonito Gallo

DESIGNER Danilo Franco and Christmas wall décor

RACHY Cuna with winners Nonito Gallo and Christopher Rompe

Wearing identical aprons, all 20 amateur competitors were equipped with shears, knives and pliers as they completed the required four basic arrangements of corsage, hand-tied bouquet, country basket and wall décor. For materials, they worked on fresh and artificial flowers, berries, fruits, abacca fiber, vegetables, foliage, live butterflies, etc.

At the professional level, the contestants were required to complete four arrangements with the following motifs—fruit and flowers with structuring, Christmas setting, year of the horse arrangement and hanging arrangement.

Unite florist industry

"The competition is more than just awarding excellence to deserving Filipino florists. It is about bringing unity to the florist industry that has grown so huge today, but is unfortunately so divided," Cuna explained.

Nobody has bothered, however, to get a head count of florists in the country. But one can guess how fast the industry has grown by looking at the florist section of the PLDT yellow pages. According to Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center, organizers of the Rachy Cuna Cup, "In the 1970s, there was only one page for florist shops. Today, there are five pages containing the list of leading shops in Metro Manila."

Design center officials estimated that there are 3,000 florists in Makati alone.

"The idea of a floral excellence awards was discussed during the flower arrangement demonstration sponsored recently by the floral arts center. Held at St. Paul's College auditorium, the event featured top florists from Singapore and Thailand who demonstrated trends and techniques in flower arrangement. But it was Rachy Cuna's dranmatic arrangement during the *finale* number that stole the entire show.

"Our florists are very creative. I am so amazed by what they can do with available materials. It is high time their talents are recognized," Cuna said. By the end of floral demonstration program at St. Paul's College, Cuna and officials of Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center have finalized the plan of the RZC Cup for Floral Design Excellence.

Competition winners

In addition to cash awards, the first prize winners received the RZC Cups, beautifully crafted crystal vases that were custom made for Cuna.

Winners in the amateur category were: Christopher Rompe of Fresh Blossoms Flower Shop of Los Banos, P10,000, first prize; Jho Vista of Fine Flowers in BF Homes Parañaque, P7,000, second prize; and Rhaye dela Cruz of Heavenly Blooms, P3,000, third prize.

Professional category winners were: Nonito Gallo of DG Asuncion flower shop, P20,000, first prize; Willie Tongco of Q's The Flowershop of Batangas City, second prize; and Rolando Manansala of Flower Façade of San Juan, Greenhills, P5,000, third prize.

Surprise awards included gifts from sponsors, sets of jewelry designed by Cuna and two P5,000 checks from Nena Tantoco for the most creative florists.

"This is just the beginning. Our goal is to inspire local florists to uplift the standard of their craft and to eventually pave the way for international exposure," Cuna said.

For more information on the next RZC Cup, call Floral Arts and Design Center at 722-8644 and 725-8986.

Have a Happening Holiday Weekend at Rustans!

December 7 - 9, 2001

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go! The holidays get even merrier with Barbie Day in Rustan's Makati. The catwalk gets all dolled up at the Barbie Fashion Show, followed by a play featuring Nutcracker Barbie. If you're lucky, you may even win special Barbie products.
This Saturday, December 8.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1937, Series of 2001.

It's Baby's day out when you're invited to the exclusive Monster Day with Cookie Monster and Elmo. Bring the biggest cookie or your baby's cutest photo (from 0-12 months only, please!) and you may win great Cookie and Elmo prizes.
This Sunday, December 9.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1937, Series of 2001.

U nplugged

U Unplugged is going strong! Enjoy nights of open bar and the acoustic music of Death By Tulip. Every Saturday, at 5:30 p.m., from December 1 to December 22.*

Rustan's Kiddie Daycare

Shop while your kids have fun. Let them hang out in our daycare centers, supervised by the Sacred Heart School Teachers, where they learn as they play.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1937, Series of 2001.

* * *

Enjoy a complimentary Starbucks coffee while we wrap your gifts.
Every weekend until December 24.***

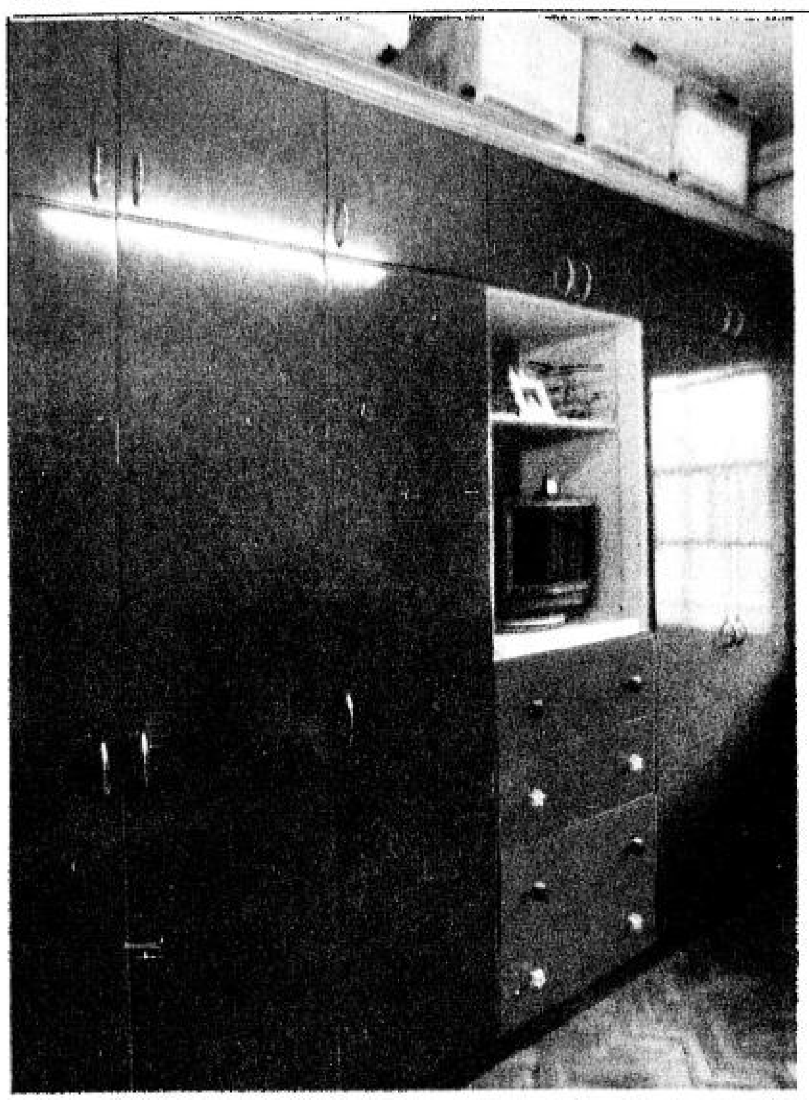
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4012, Series of 2001.

Listen to the Franciscan Dream Chorale* and the Cantabile Musical Ensemble,** every weekend until December 23. And catch the jugglers, mimes and monocyclists, around the store with special gifts and promos.

3 more weekends to go!
Catch the Christmas spirit at Rustan's.

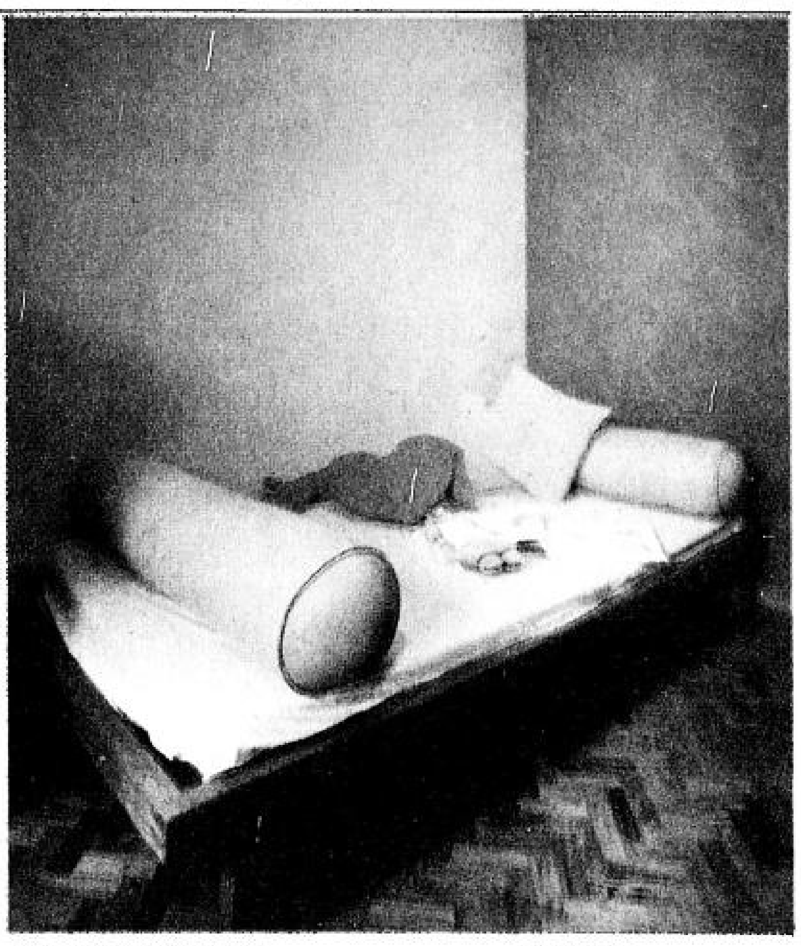
Rustan's

* In Rustan's Makati only
** In Rustan's Makati & Shangri-La Plaza
*** In Rustan's Makati, Alabang & Shangri-La Plaza



CHILD'S DELIGHT. Storage components and cabinets may be splashed with color, accented with knobs and pulls that are definitely a child's delight. Inside the cabinet are racks, layers of toys and all the gadgets needed for child-rearing.

PARKING CORNERS. Every child has one big, bulky toy or a bike to park in a favorite spot or corridor. Create a play corner, fill up empty spaces with books.



BRIGHT AND EASY. Children's beds have to be low for safety. Edges are sanded off, without looking too rounded. Soft furnishings enliven the scene, with colors mixed on the walls. A second bed may be pulled out for a playmate or a nanny.

MY SPACE. Framed photos of 2-year old Zee identify her space, sometimes shared with brother Miguel. Primary red is splashed on the walls, providing light and vibrancy.

Kids' rooms can be both fun and safe

(From page E1)

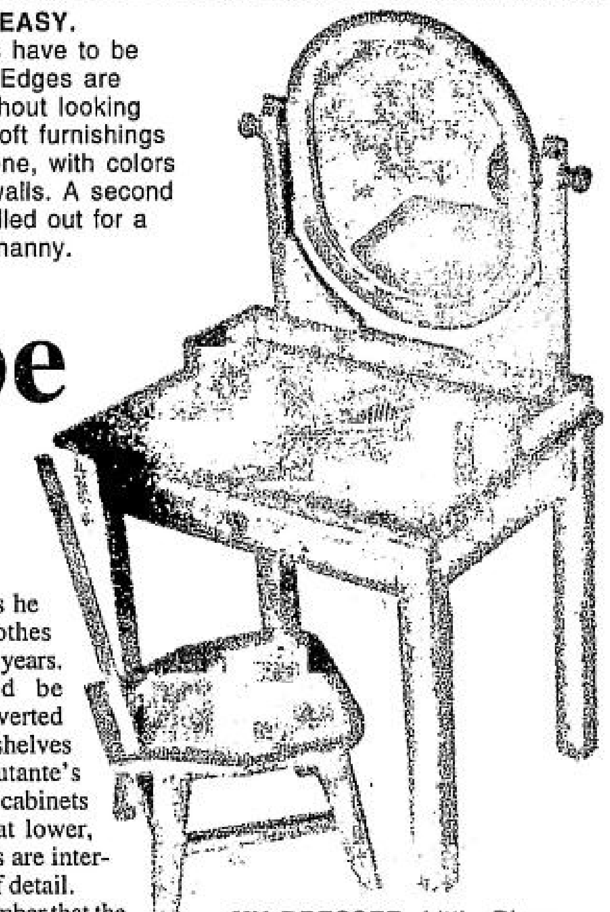
a boudoir, an anteroom and study or master's audio/video room later.

Ventilation, of course, is essential. With tropical elements now strongly pronounced in tasteful Filipino homes, window dimensions should be sufficient to generate fresh air. Loft rooms can also be pleasant. A window-less "Harry Potter" room under the stairs will not do!

Built-in storage and shelves can be accessories to suit the child's needs. The cabinets could be designed such that lower drawers (with safety locks and slides in place) could be within the reach of a 7-year-old. A two-level hanging rod could be installed so the child can reach the lower level now and appreciate the abundance of hanging space later on as he accumulates clothes in his adolescent years.

Desks could be built-in and converted into lower deck shelves later for a debutante's books. Plan the cabinets and walls so that lower, eye level heights are interesting and full of detail.

Always remember that the room is for a child and not for an adult. Picture yourself as 2-ft tall again, fully charged, moving fast, with glowing eyes that appreciate even the tiniest eye-catching detail. Ensure that the room and its dimensions will be a comfort zone for your toddler.



MY DRESSER. Little Rianna loves her very own dresser, which she shares with her playmates. Made of good wood and naturally finished, it is a joy to keep even when she grows older. As she grows up, her small stool can still be a fitting accent piece in her room.

Design elements

Among the design elements, line, color, texture and form are critical to the room's child-friendly character. Colors should exude a happy and vibrant atmosphere. Color psychology comes into the picture. Murals can be painted for visual delight. Boys' rooms can have patterns ranging from sailboats to Spiderman. Girls' rooms do not always have to be all ribbons and lace to generate a feminine ambience. It can also hint at strength and dominance. Vivid and bright, solid paints are as favorable as pastels. Wall paper is all right for as long as the parents can minimize color renderings by a budding artist, empowered with a box of crayons. Papering may also retain harmful fumes caused from the adhesive. Faux finishes are, in fact, so much better as they can simply be painted over. Have a nice theme painted on the wall as a mural. Wash the walls in shades favored by your child, mixing a palette of colors in a parchment finish, lined, rubbed or sanded. Experiment with color swatches. Do not be afraid of tints and shades of the usual hues. While a minimalist living room is great for your sense of style, imagine how your child will fee in a black, white or wood-veneered room, spare in detailing.

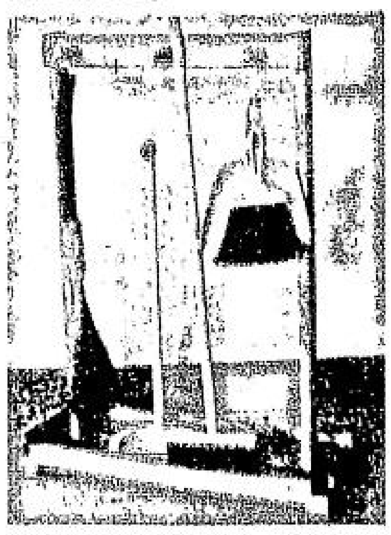
What child would not want a cupboard of toys, a burst of color here and there? There are many purposeful ways to bring a home's theme to the nursery, without sacrificing style.

Textures have to be appealing to the child. A combination of soft furnishings can have a calming, relaxing effect. Pad the floors with a non-allergenic rug. Scratch off the slippery polyurethane. Make the room cozy, warm and inviting—a zone of play, study and rest. Mix the colors of pillows and add patterned duvets with solid colored sheets. Make the bed fluffy and inviting, the crib a joy to keep as an heirloom.

Safety tops the list in reviewing design concepts for the home. Materials should be checked for sharp edges, possible out-of-a-child's reach concern, emission of fumes, viability and child-friendliness.

The environment shapes the imagination. It offers all the possibilities for a child's development. Bring design elements that nurture growth into a child's space and assure that your precious children are comfortable and safe in their own little spaces.

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org



CLEANING AS FUN. Fit-to-size are these little cleaning tools, making it easy for a child to recognize practical items in the house. These downsized gadgets will make tidying up a room fun.

SINK FOR KITCHEN LEARNING. Children love to play house. Playtime can be an opportunity for training in and studying the components of a real home. From custom-designed pieces crafted for a Montessori-trained mother, a washing sink counter and table set fold up neatly in one corner.

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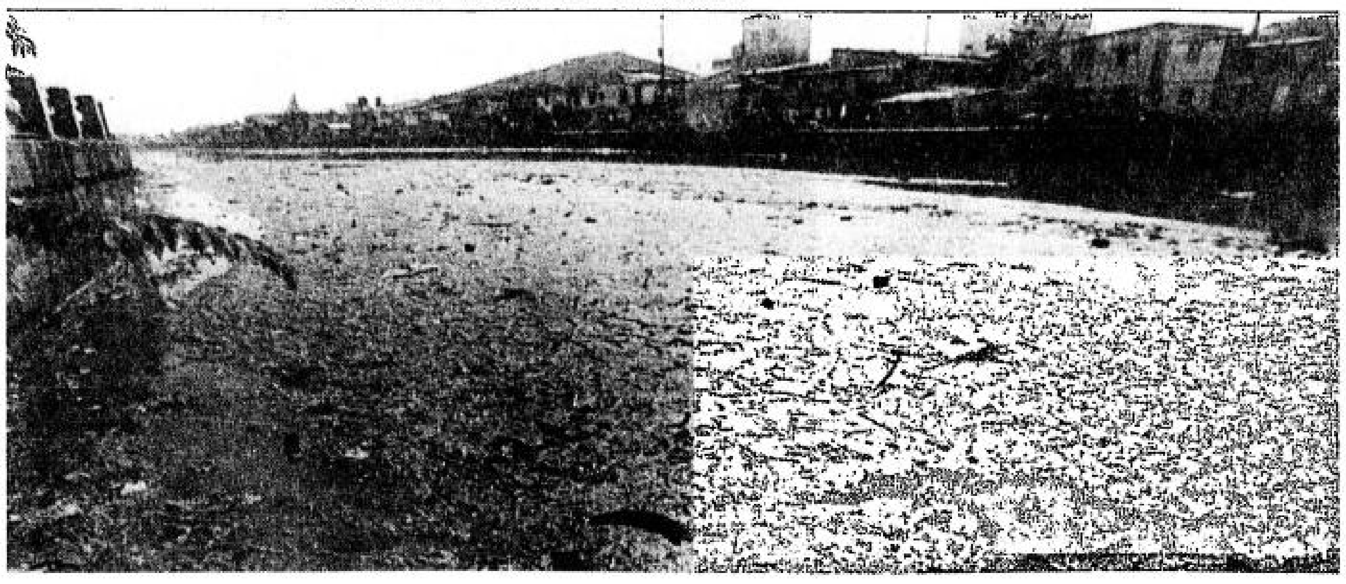

ADB loan makes Pasig rehabilitation a near-reality

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE $175 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to complete the rehabilitation of the Pasig River. Probably the correct term is "near-completion" because the job is a gargantuan one and will likely need a lot of mopping up afterward before it can be considered truly finished.

The ADB loan is being used for the implementation of sector development programs (rehabilitation is being done by sectors) managed by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) through the Australian consultancy firm, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty. Ltd. (SKM). At their end, the project goes by the title Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program or PREMRSDP.

The timetable for river rehabilitation is 15 years. By 2014, the Pasig's environmental condition is expected to be revitalized to the point that its water quality can be classified as Class C (meaning, aquatic life has returned to the river and its waters are suitable again for secondary contact sports like boating).

The target year of 2014 is actually an extension of the original date set by past administrations because the necessary funds had then not yet been made available. In other words, rehab work is taking off again after a few years' setback.

But the PRRC and the project implementors are making up for lost time with the release of the $175 million. They marked this development last October by launching the Project Implementation Assistance (PIA) component of the PREMRSDP.

Multifaceted project

SKM's role is to make sure that all systems are in place for the implementation of its five-pronged task, which are: to set up a sanitation system for septage collection; to design and construct a septage treatment plant; to set up the 10-meter wide environment preservation areas (EPAs) along the Pasig; to establish urban removal areas adjacent to the EPAs; and to provide project implementation assistance to agencies, LGUs (local government units) and various people's organizations in the concerned areas. It is also providing manpower to ensure that the timetable is met.

SKM's involvement, moreover, is expected to fast track Manila's wastewater management project, especially the handling of domestic liquid waste, which comprises the greatest part of the problem. Only 10 percent of Metro Manila households is connected to a sewerage system.

For its part, the PIA focuses on four components—project management and coordination; financing management; wastewater management; and sanitation. These components are expected to be fully operational by the end of 36 months or by year 2004.

Those who have been following the "flow" of work for the Pasig's rehabilitation will be interested to know that the Clean and Green Foundation, which once spearheaded active private sector participation in the erstwhile Pasig River Rehabilitation Program (PRRP), is now a member of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) which took over the program's role. The foundation also continues its involvement through advocacy.

The question concerned environmentalists now ask is: Considering the different requirements for a thorough Pasig River cleanup, will $175 million suffice? Pessimists do not think so, but the optimists say it will, if those funds are really used for their true purpose.

No one is more anxious to see the project succeed than the Manilan, for it is he or she who stands to benefit first from this great river's resuscitation. But, then, it is time for all Filipinos to be involved because its revival will be a move ahead for the whole country.

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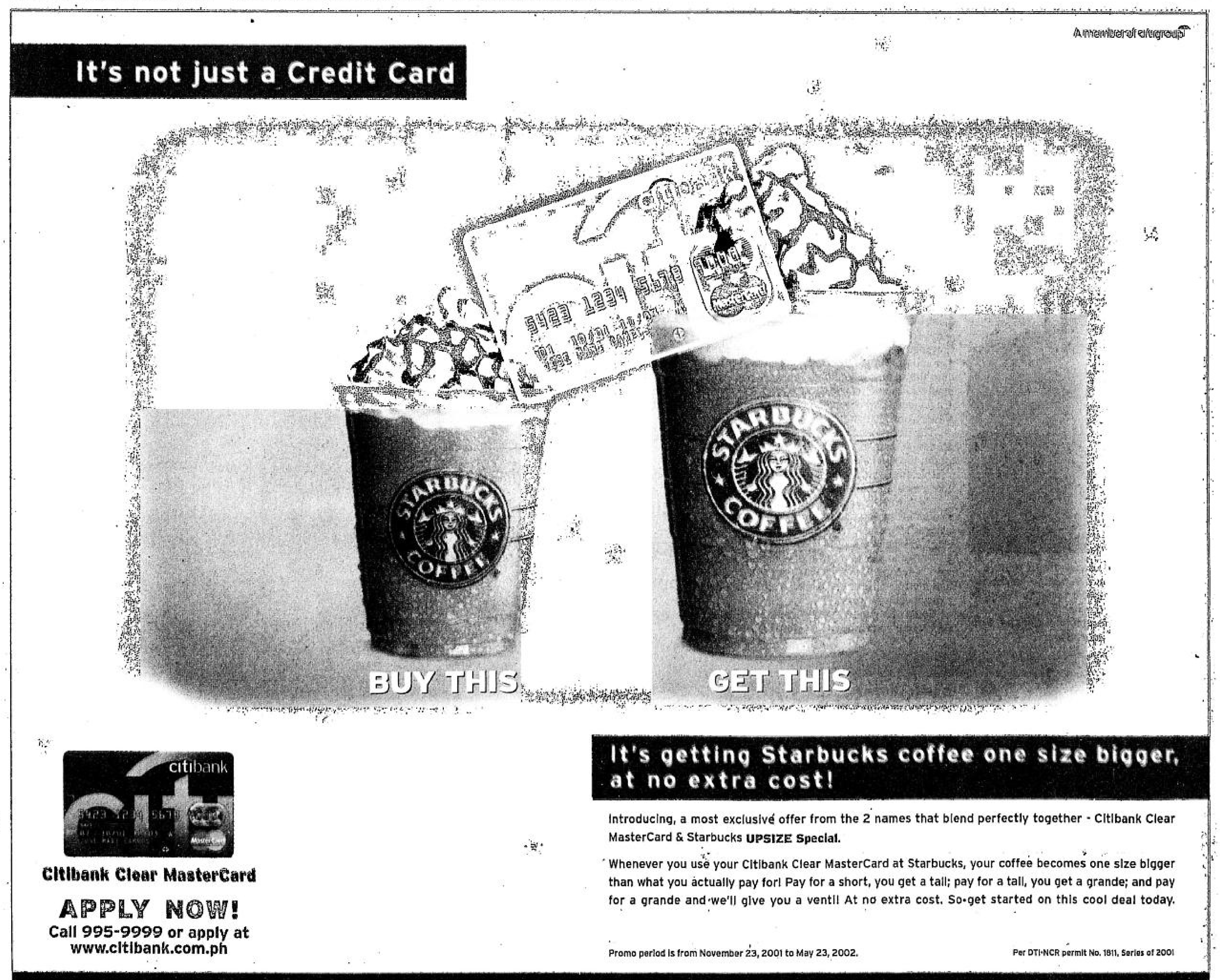

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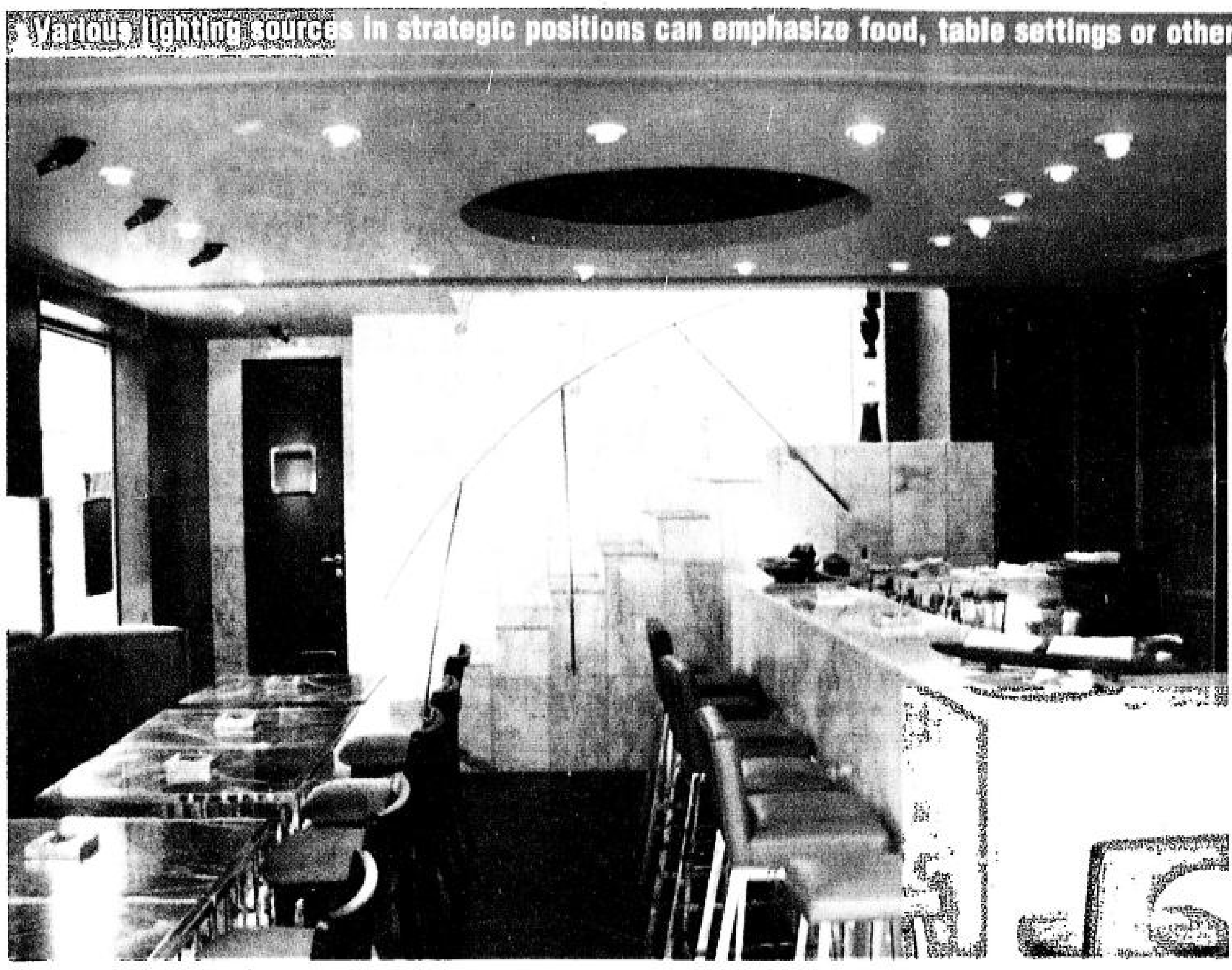
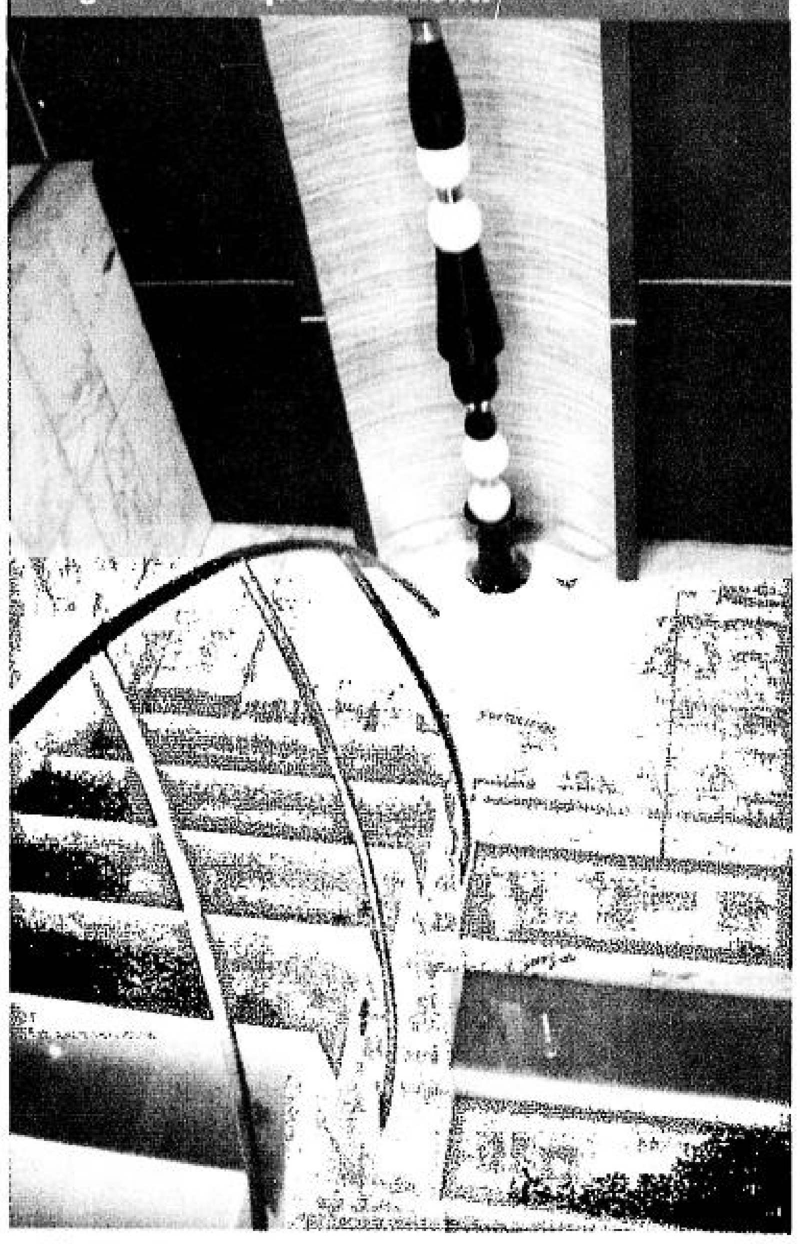
Various lighting sources in strategic positions can emphasize food, table settings or other displays.



GRAND ENTRANCE. Past a glowing marble bar and banquettes is a translucent marble staircase. At night kinetic Pucci patterns in purple and fuchsia are projected onto the staircase in a seductive play of lights. A fragile steel handrail, stripped to the barest minimum, assures an ethereal ascent.

The landing, which is normally neglected, is given a unique treatment.



A SCULPTURAL pillar of ostrich eggs, mango wood vases and silver rings with a backdrop of fine strips of wicker is the focal point of Fidel, linking the bistro and bar below with the celestial delights of the lounge above. Crystalline marble, a delicate handrail and glass steps add to the lightness of being.

Dining al fresco–well, sort of

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

HOW can a 150-sq-m space look twice its size? That's the wonder of Chito Vijandre's new French-Moroccan restaurant Fidel on Maria Orosa Street's restaurant row. His other partners in Firma, that tony specialty boutique in Malate, such as Ricky Toledo, Richard Danao and Markus Schmidt, have invested in a two-story restaurant-bar that presents a unique concept.

From the street, anybody will be attracted to the place. One easily sees a visual feast in the interiors through the glass walls.

Vijandre favored glass and metals to evoke lightness. Glass walls give the feeling of bringing the outside in. Ubiquitous mirrors create an illusion of expanse.

Just like in fashion, Vijandre never followed a total look. It was all about mixing polarities from head to toe.

Although the look is inspired by the French colonies such as the Moroccan lamps in the bathroom and the Oriental lamps, Vijandre stays true to Philippine products.

Abaca and seagrass are used on the wallpaper and furniture. Local lamp paper were made into flat sheets to resemble Japanese paper. Of interest is a totem made from ostrich eggs from Cagayan de Oro combined with mango wood vases from Thailand.

The flooring was prodigiously laid out with Romblon marble. Visitors think it's carrara. At night, the staircase with glass tops over white marble steps and a sleek steel baluster looks like a moving sculpture with kinetic lights.

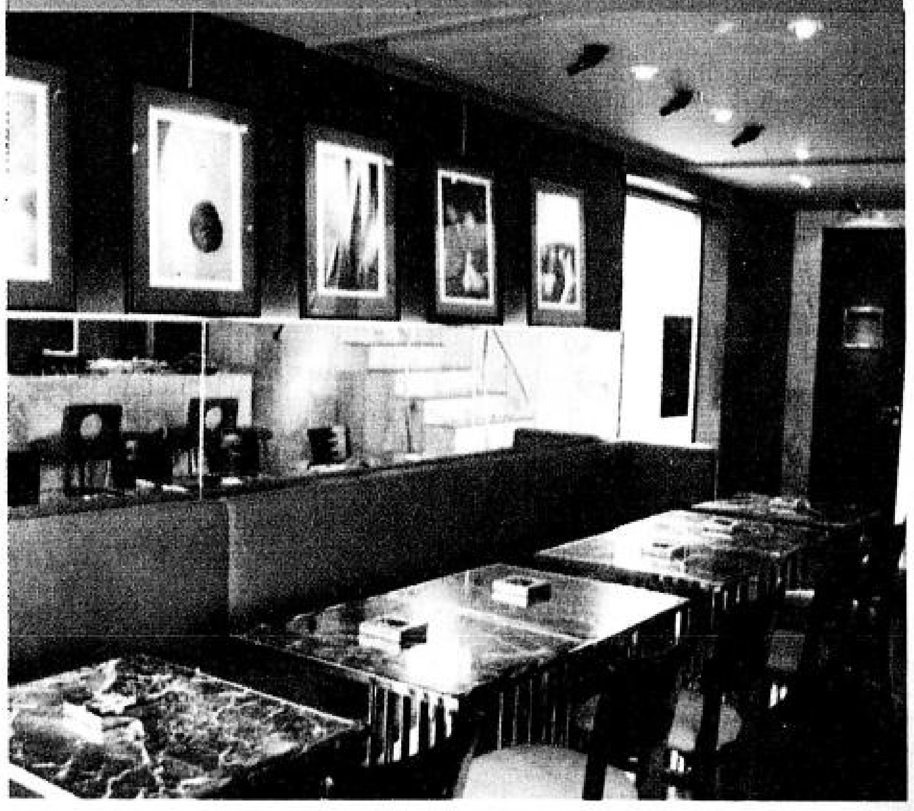
Vijandre's trademarks are there, such as his handmade tassels and trimmings made of antique silver beads, coral and jade from Afghanistan.

"I like to mix the industrial with luxury," he says, referring to the flooring of raw concrete and marble with stainless steel strips. "It's not expected, but it works."

Some of Vijandre's savvy can be applied in decorating your home. *Marge C. Enriquez*

For Fidel, Chito Vijandre uses glass walls and mirrors to bring the outside in

To enhance dining experience, diners face mirrors and catch reflections instead of facing a blank wall. Instead of hanging artworks, line them on the ledge.



FRENCH BISTRO. A modern take on the classic bistro style fuses tactile materials such as chenille upholstery for the banquette, stainless steel and marble for the tables, and veneer walls tinted to resemble freshly cut bamboo. Above the mirror is a collection of Denise Weldon black-and-white Iris prints paper. Steel ashtrays on the tables are by Markus Schmidt at Firma.

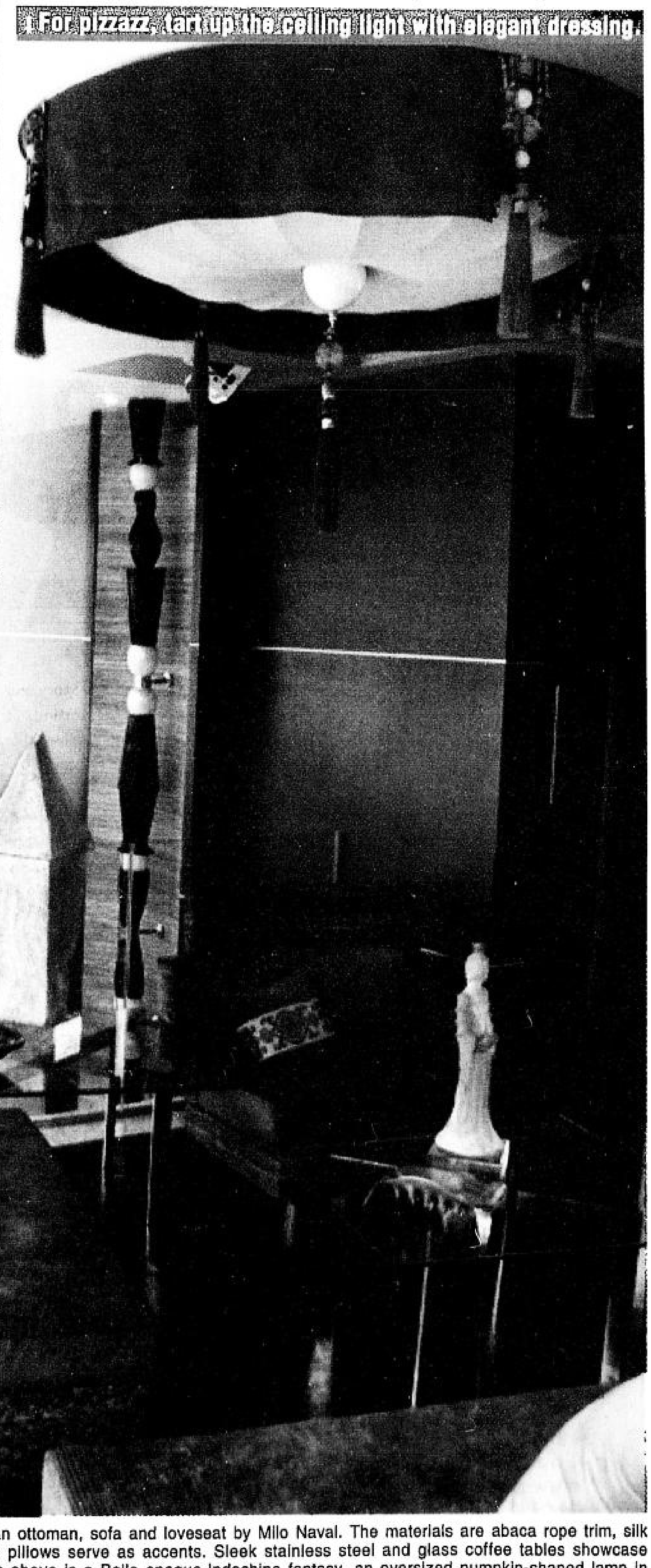
Don't be afraid to juxtapose polar textures, such as rich marble with raw concrete.

BISTRO table in steel and green marble is paired with walnut chairs in wenge finish. The flooring is industrial cement tinted to resemble black slate, combined with fine, translucent white marble from Romblon. Stainless steel inlays form a harlequin pattern.

Play with sizes and shapes.

A HAN Dynasty terra-cotta statue of a court musician stands happily outside a hypermodern cast aluminum sculpture by Marc Newson and an antique Burmese lacqured tray with gold leafed wooden temple flowers from Ayuthaya. Walls are made of textured fiberglass lit from behind to resemble rippling water. A portrait of the designer, Chito Vijandre, looks approvingly from the book "Images" by Patrick Rosas and Jun de Leon.

For pizzazz, tart up the ceiling light with elegant dressing.



COMFORT ZONE. The lounge is furnished with an ottoman, sofa and loveseat by Milo Naval. The materials are abaca rope trim, silk and chenille upholstery. Chito Vijandre's couture pillows serve as accents. Sleek stainless steel and glass coffee tables showcase antiquities from Firma. Casting a warm glow from above is a Belle epoque-Indochine fantasy, an oversized pumpkin-shaped lamp in raw silk embellished with an ostrich egg pendant, silk tassels and semiprecious stones evoking lazy afternoons in colonial Hanoi.

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Child-at-heart **Manny Tonogbanua, Senior Marketing Director of Disney Channel Asia** has made friends with Toy Kingdom through **Mr. Eric DyLim, VP for Marketing and Operations,** to give Toy Story viewers a chance to win P50,000 worth of toys!

Catch Toy Story and Toy Story 2 on the Disney Channel on Christmas Day from 6 pm, count how many times the adorable Little Green Men appear, and write your answers on entry coupons at Toy Kingdom- and you're on your way to a chance to win a chest full of toys! Awesome! Two lucky winners will be let loose at Toy Kingdom in SM Megamall on February 26, 2002 to shop for the toys of their choice! "Nothing compares to the sight of a child's wide-eyed delight in having the toys he wants!" says Manny, "We're gonna make a child's fantasy come true."

There's more! The Disney Channel, in cooperation with Magic 89.9 WTM will give lucky callers from December 10 to 21, a chance to win more toys! Tune in to Magic 89.9!

IT'S PLAY TIME WITH TINETTE AT THE SM SUPERMALLS!
Disney has more stories to tell at The Disney Channel Christmas Extravaganza! See Playhouse Disney's resident host Tinette open the Disney storybook and tell a Disney-storyfull of games, prizes and surprises!

Come to the Activity Center of the following SM Supermalls:

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December 22 and 23 - SM Megamall
December 29 and 30 - SM North EDSA

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Mr. Raymund Miranda, Disney Channel-Asia's Managing Director, shares Walt Disney's belief that all children should have toys. Yearly, therefore, The Disney Channel celebrates **Disney Hand Holidays,** where toys are given away to the less fortunate children of the world. This year, The Disney Channel is giving away over US$1,000 worth of toys to charitable organizations including the children of Tuloy Sa Don Bosco Foundation.

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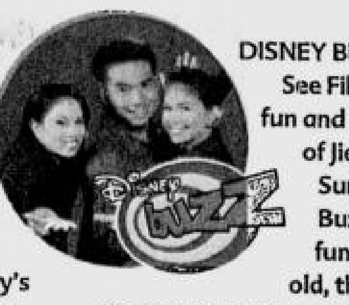
Take Your Pick!

THE BOOK OF POOH
Winnie the Pooh and Friends have invaded pre-school television through Playhouse Disney. Watch The Book of Pooh exclusively on The Disney Channel from 9-11am, Mondays to Fridays.

Playhouse Disney CHANNEL



DISNEY BUZZ
See Filipina Karen Borja exchange fun and antics with the wacky duo of Jien and Azurra , Fridays to Sundays, 6-8 pm on Disney Buzz. Disney Buzz features fun programs for the 6-12 year old, the most recent of which was the Asian premiere of Buzz Lightyear of Star Command TV series.

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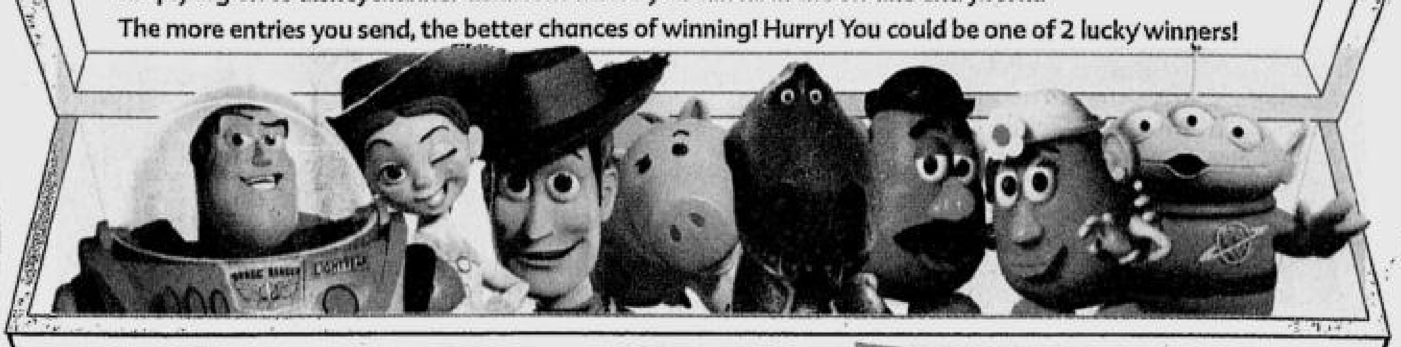
- Watch how many times the Little Green Men appear on both Toy Story and Toy Story 2 and write the answer on the coupon below. Be sure to tell us about your best friend, too!
- Drop your entries at any Toy Kingdom store in SM North Mall, SM Megamall, SM South Mall, or SM Bacoor not later than January 10, 2002 or mail them to: P.O. Box Disney Channel (2829), Makati City, Philippines. Or simply log on to disneychannel-asia.com where you can fill in the on-line entry form.

The more entries you send, the better chances of winning! Hurry! You could be one of 2 lucky winners!



A Disney Channel Christmas Extravaganza of Fun and Prizes for the Whole Family!

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Green-prone in Singapore

Despite the oppressiveness of equatorial weather, Singapore is pleasant because of its greenery

(From page E2)

I decide to make it a point to visit the Botanical Garden one morning, having heard so much about it.

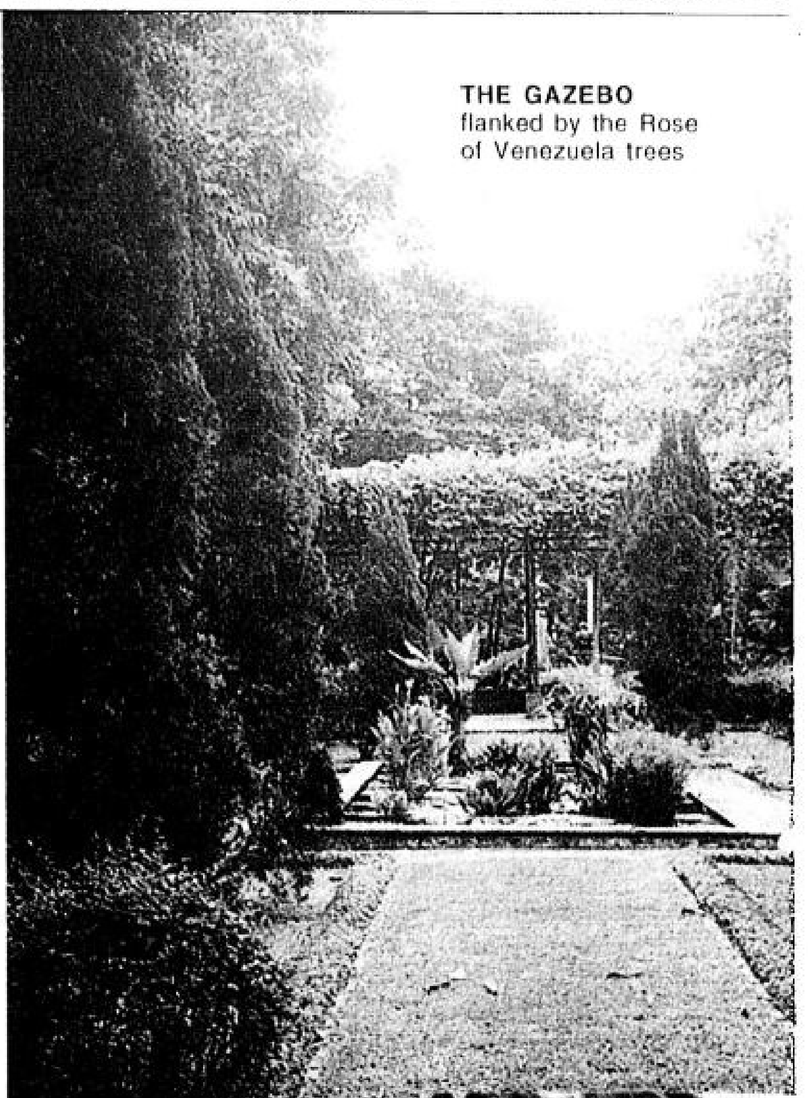
Thomas Stamford Raffles established the first and original botanical garden in 1922 planted cash crops like nutmeg, cloves and ornamental shrubs on Government Hill. However, the effort faltered. Later, a 53-ha site was established in 1859 by the Agro-Horticultural Society in the Tanglin district. Scenic roads were laid out, a lake was dug, and on the inclines a bandstand was erected to provide a venue for Sunday afternoon performances. When funds from the Society came to a halt in 1875, the garden was turned over to the government. This was to become the botanical research center that Raffles had envisioned.

The Botanical Garden was established as an economic center, a place where various new crops were tested for commercial farming. In this aspect, its most celebrated economic achievement was the introduction of rubber as a viable crop in Malaya.

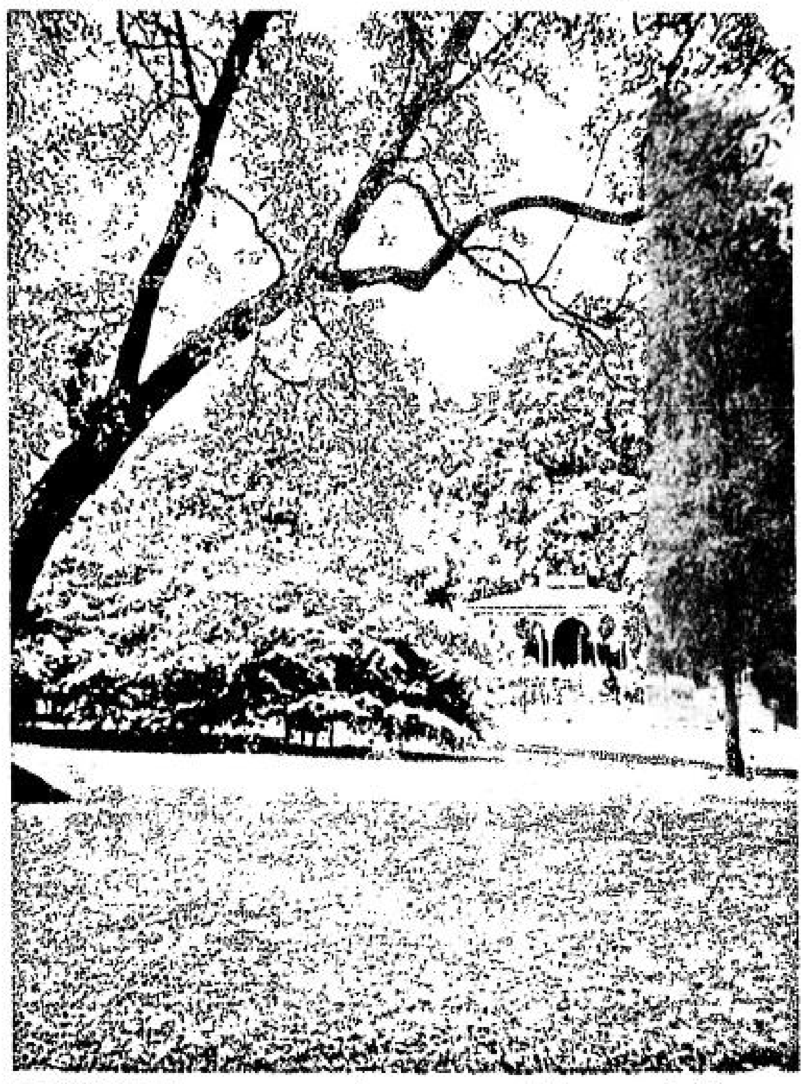
Henry Nicholas Ridley got credit for discovering the pioneering way of tapping the trees. His fervent campaign to plant the rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*, gave way to plans of growing coffee. Amazingly, the origins of the rubber industry started with 11 seedlings that reached Singapore from a mother plant grown at the Kew Gardens in 1877, all germinated from seeds.

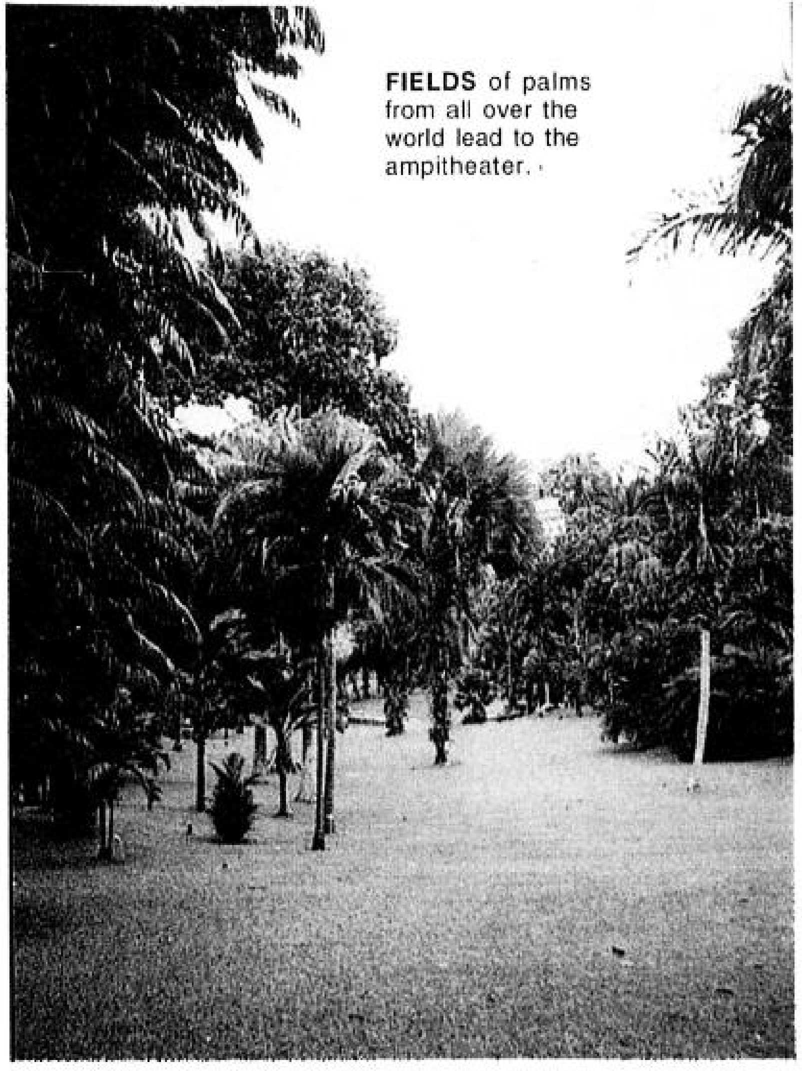
The Singapore Botanical Gardens (SBG) houses countless acclimatized ornamental specimens transported from distant places. The gardens' influence on the development of modern tropical garden design is powerful. Countless plant specimens were introduced here. The gardens functioned even during the Japanese occupation when two English botanists were allowed to stay out of prison camp to tend to the plants.

At present, the SBG is responsible for maintaining the site and for implementing former Prime Minister's Lee Kuan Yew's plan of transforming Singapore into a "garden city." In May 2002, the SBG will mark another horticultural milestone when it opens the "cool-house," the first-ever temperature-controlled environment, showcasing plants from colder and higher altitudes.


THE GAZEBO flanked by the Rose of Venezuela trees

THESE flowers completely cover a 30-ft tree.


ORNAMENTAL creepers and cypresses add decorum in this formal courtyard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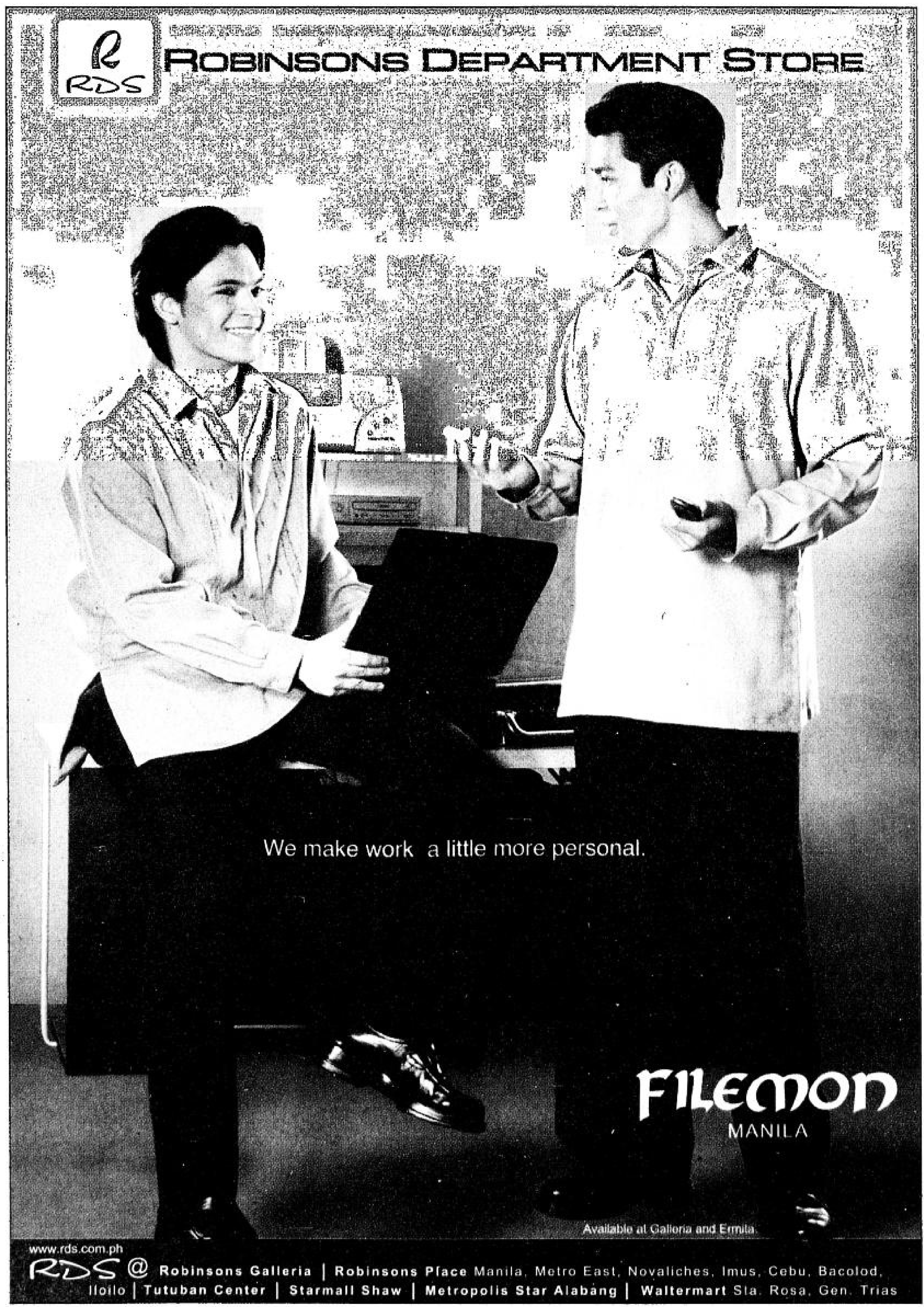
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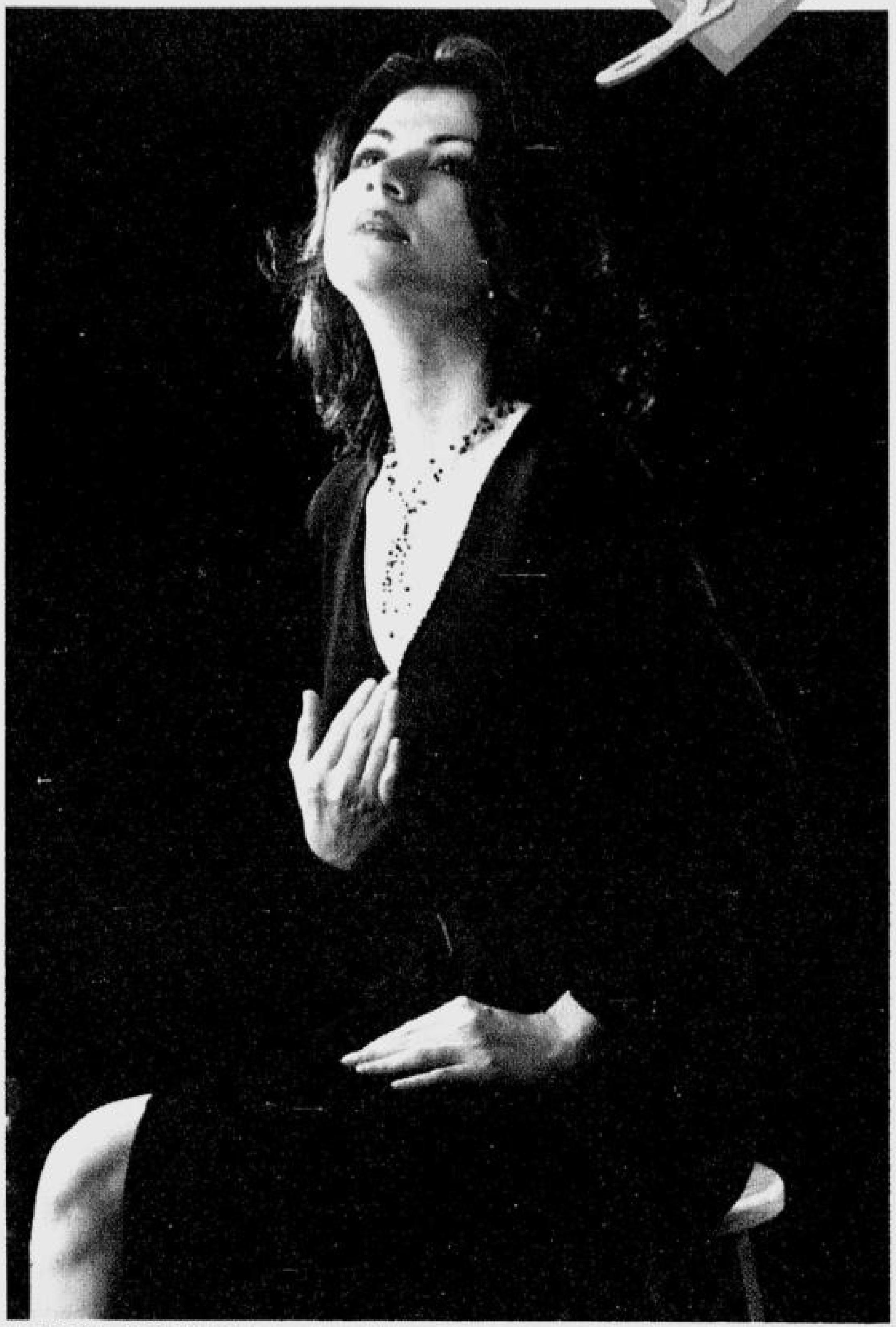
LIFESTY… Trend Spotting


ROSANNA ROCES. Study in pious black

From sinner to saint

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY PATRICK UY

THE PENDULUM of life swings from one extreme to another. Such is the case of screen siren Rosanna Roces who is shifting from overt sexuality to spirituality.

"I've been looking for my true self. I'm Rosanna Roces. Jennifer was lost so I couldn't recognize myself. I wanted to return to Jennifer," says the actress and host of "Star Talk," who is Jennifer Molina in life.

For the record, we call her by her professional name, which has become a household word.

Controversial ad

Driving by herself all the way from the north, Roces arrives for the interview and pictorial at Patrick Uy's studio in Greenhills much earlier than this writer does.

Roces is characteristically punctual. In productions, she even arrives before the crew sets up the equipment. Before stepping into the set, she has already memorized her lines. However, don't make her wait too long. If nothing is happening on the set, she walks out.

For the interview Roces is clad in her trademark punk look—faded jeans and tank top and studded belt and ankle boots. She likes to dress hip and favors avant-garde clothes made by Maxi Cinco. Who can forget her prosthetic breast or gothic looks, topped by a bald head in one awards night?

"I'm an artist. A gown is an expression of my creativity and myself." In her trademark candor, she explains, "I once wore a gown by Rajo Laurel and I looked boring. *Parang walang dating.* Corny. *Parang hindi ako ito.*"

Her husband, Tito Molina, approves of the styles. He can predict if a dress would elicit controversy or not. When he saw her in Cinco's outfit, which exposed her behind in all its full glory, he predicted that she'd get into trouble.

Her advertisement on lipo-sculpture for the Belo Medical Group, of which she is an image model, certainly caused a stir. It showed the actress with her exposed derriere facing the camera during an awards night. Although the AdBoard censured the daring layout, Dr. Victoria Belo received calls from potential clients asking if their fats could be siphoned and zapped.

Roces is a good friend of Belo. Aside from sculpting the actress' figure, Belo is her partner in a facial care center, Flawless, for the mass market in SM Megamall B. Belo also introduced Roces to raja yoga meditation. Since then Rosanna's life has changed.

Self-image

She has undergone several changes of image and name, starting with Ana Maceda. Rosanna Roces clicked.

Asked how the bold image affected her psychologically, she replies in Tagalog, "It makes

FROM/p.F6

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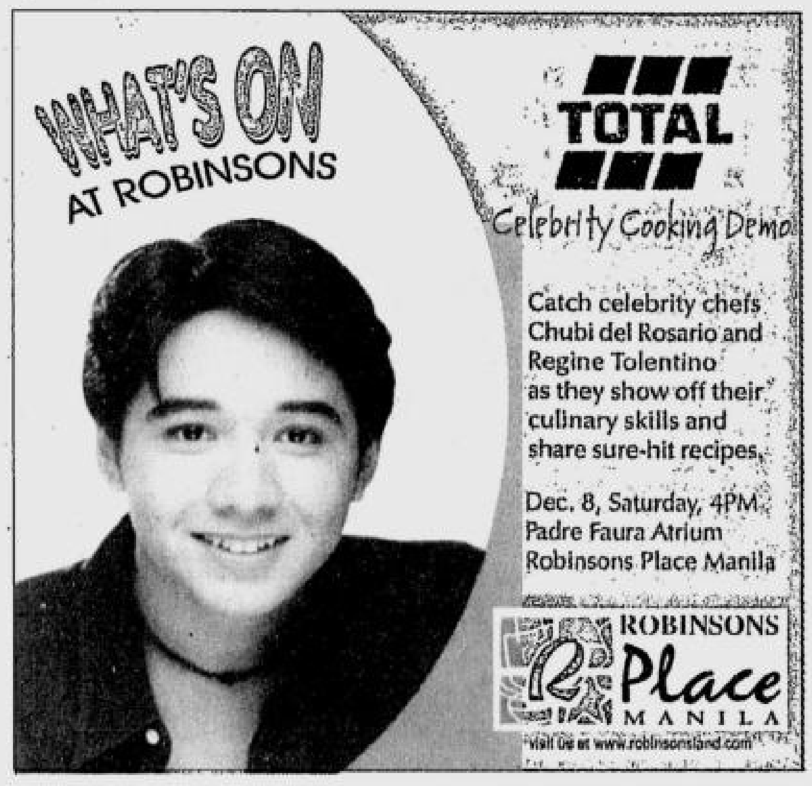

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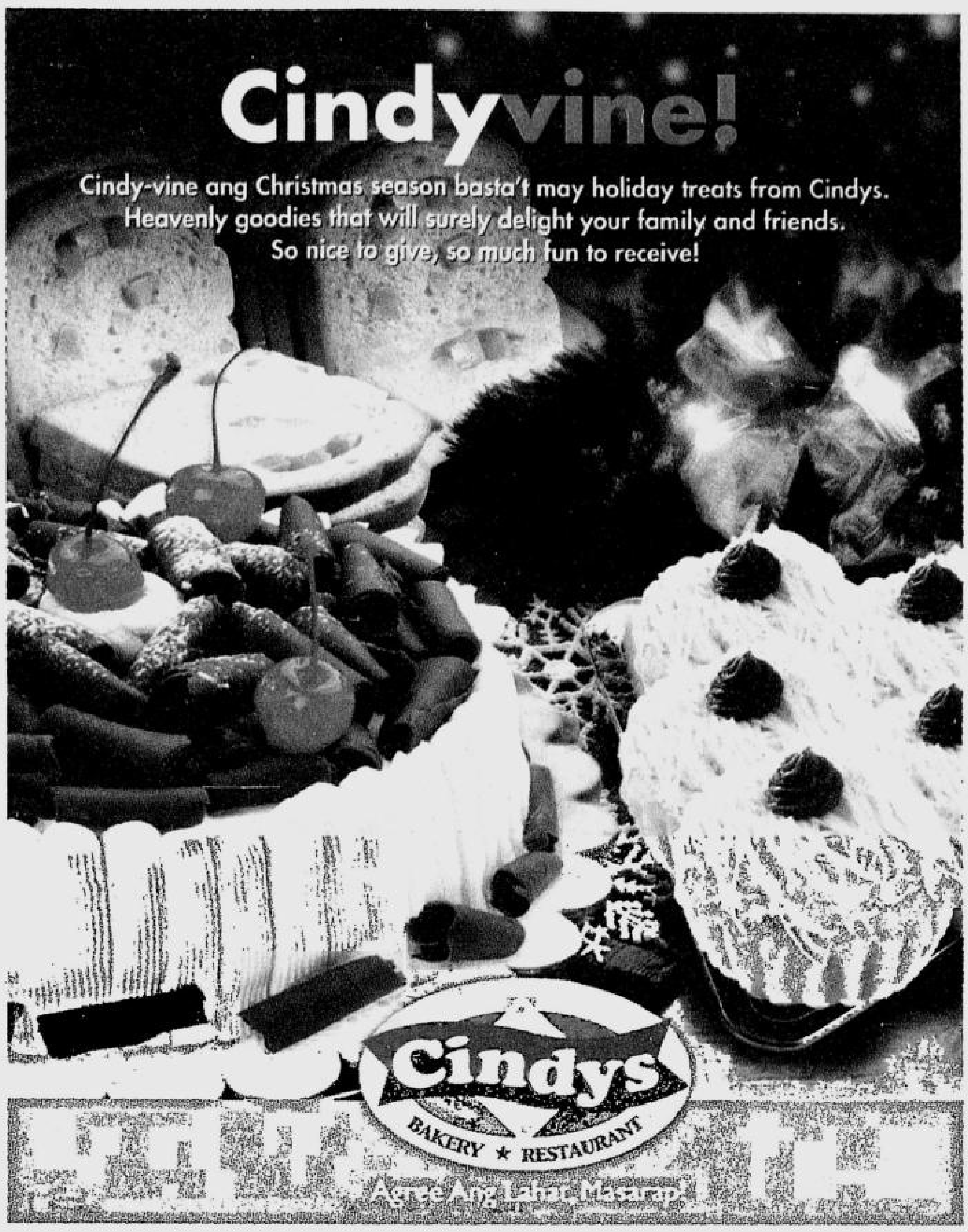
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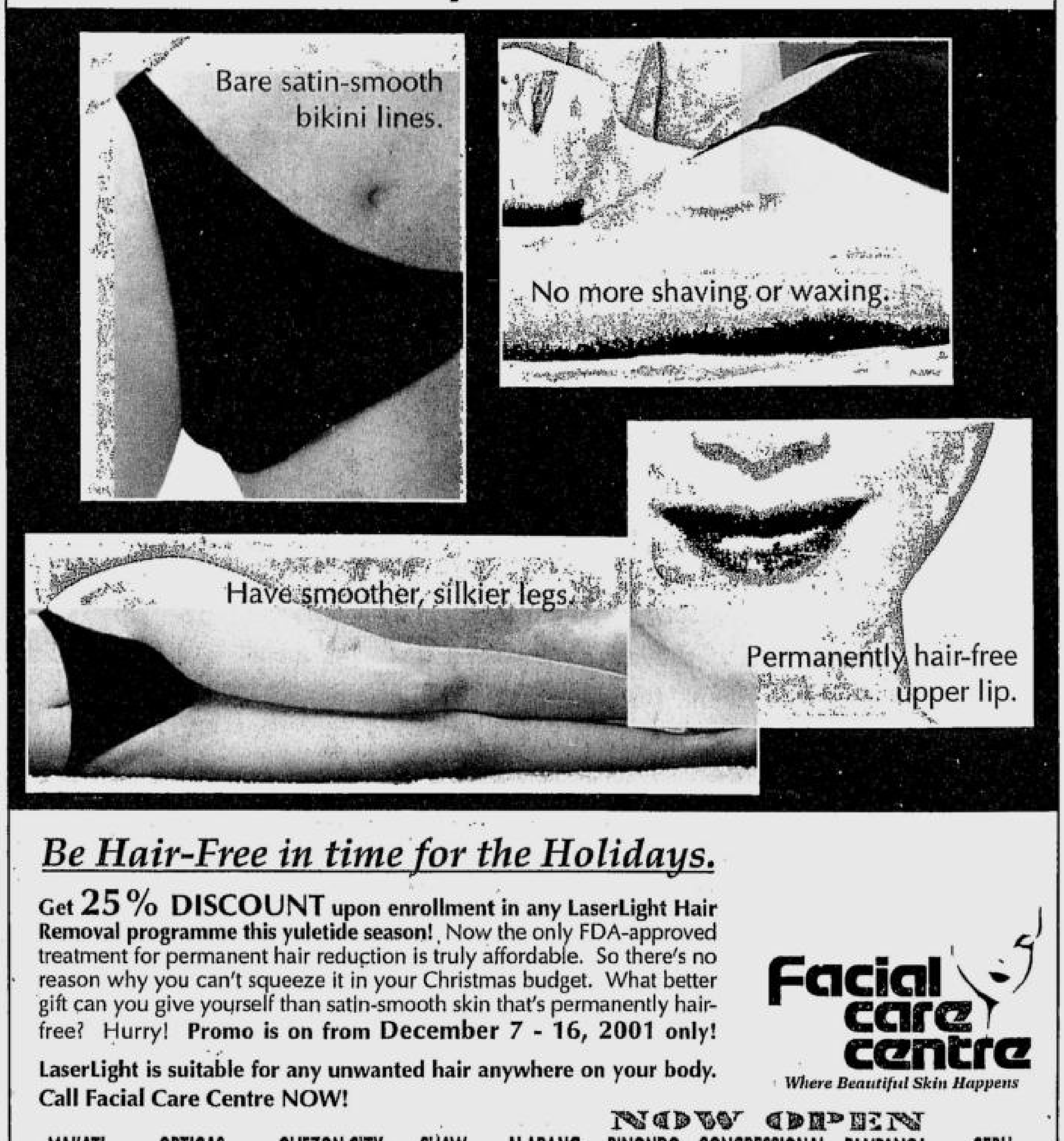
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Whose fat is it anyway?

Is it anybody's business that you're plump, pudgy, porcine and adipose?

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

I HAVE had it.

Can somebody please enlighten me about this nagging and piquant question that has been boggling my mind of late? Is it really *polite* for anyone—and by this I am referring to all individuals whom you come across and whose very existence do not really matter in the order of your personal universe—to come up to you and say, "*Ang taba mo, ha*? (You're pudgy)"

I have plodded through tomes of Amy Vanderbilt and Miss Manners to verify this indignation I feel each time some overfriendly, overconcerned specimen of humanity takes it upon himself to remind me that I have again assumed the shape of a walking blimp. I want to put my mind at rest, figuring out if it is indeed a part of what is accepted as decent behavior in human civilization to have someone acknowledge your ballooning figure.

Of course, they *mean* well. They always mean well. The road to hell is also full of good intentions. Of course, they want to remind you that your body has seen better days, and that the passage of years has simply transformed you from svelte to sofa-like.

Could it be that they are *sincerely* concerned about how you look and that you have assumed the level of the visually disturbing just because you can't tuck in your shirt? Could it be that this concerned citizen wants to remind you that you're stuck to wearing all-black, and that you look like you are about to asphyxiate because your pants have been forcibly buttoned around the waist area enough for you to look like a water balloon with a sash? Could it be that every Homo sapien who tells you bluntly that you've grown fat as a water rat actually nurses some secret desire to use your body not only for purposes involving human reproduction?

I think not. I should think that people who tell me I am successfully moving toward the stature of obesity just had to say something for the sake of saying it. You know, it has all the casual qualities of a "hello" while making you seem like an impending casualty eliciting a rather sarcastic, "helloooooow!" If a comment about weight is meant to be an icebreaker, well, definitely the layers of subzero frostiness increase between both parties. How can you warm up to someone who tells you you are beginning to look like Porky or Petunia?

And what if, in some moment of absolute demonic possession, you reply, "*Oo, ang taba ko... Ikaw? Bakit ang pangit mo ngayon*? (Yes, I'm fat. And you? Why do you look so hideous today)" I do not think *that* exchange of so-called pleasantries will lead to any further development of either friendship or promises of a meaningful relationship.

Self-control

There have been many occasions when I simply bit my lower lip or chewed off a piece of my tongue in the act of controlling my bitching with the excuse of being cute and witty. Yeah, right! There was a time (like a decade ago) when I had a waistline meant for skintight jeans and tucked-in knit shirts. Those were the years when I went to gym and burned my fats not only for reasons of health but in a determined effort to increase my market value in the singles market. Those were the years when I followed a Spartan diet (have you tried eating nothing but boiled eggs and tomatoes for a week?), headed for the stationary bike and treadmill, twisted, mangled, distorted and disentangled my muscles doing aerobics... and spent a good 30 minutes two times a week in a steam room empathizing with *dimsums*. Those were the innocent and reckless times when I considered bulimia as classy. I did all that in the name of beauty!

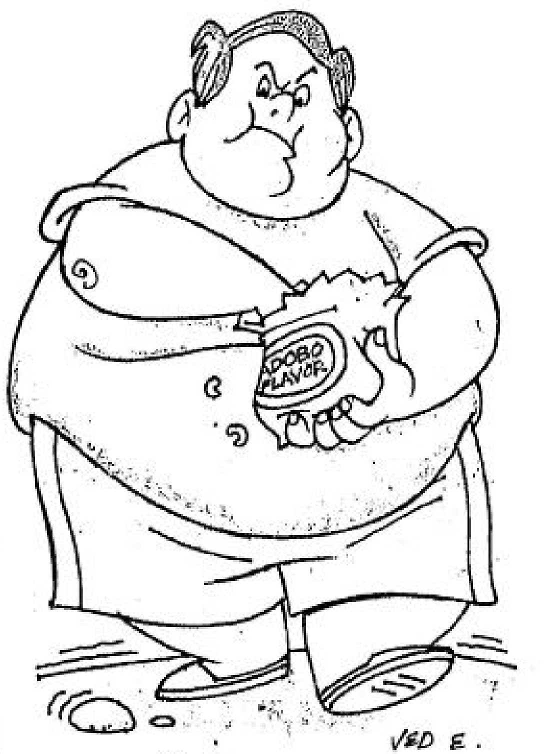

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Of course, midlife should not be an excuse to let go (Translation: *bumigay na*). Health is still wealth and all that crap. And regardless of how young at heart you want to feel, the rate of your metabolism does not increase by wearing Capri pants and Fubu shirts when you are past 40. But then, talk to me about waistlines when I am confronted by delicious bags of Nacho cheese-flavored Doritos dipped in medium-flavored Rosarita Salsa, mouth-watering Reese Peanut Butter Cups (or peanut butter—extra chunky), Lapid's crackling *sitsaron* with *laman*, *sitsaron bulaklak*, innards floating on peanut gravy in my mother's *kare-kare*, Choc-Nut being meticulously peeled and gulped in a single move... And you expect me to think about my waistline amid this forage of lovely temptations?

I want to grab whoever gives a comment about my bloating volume and uncontrollable gain of weight and twist his collar. I want to holler at him and say, "Look, you loquacious piece of turd. I don't gamble, I don't drink. And of late, I have even limited my activities involving fornication! Don't you think I deserve to eat a lot without you reminding me that I am beginning to resemble a sacred elephant from India?"

Hypothetical

Let's hypothesize just for the sake of argument. If, say in three weeks, I decided to really go for it and succeeded through some heavenly miracle or through the liposuction tubes of celebrity dermatologist Dr. Victoria Belo, and end up looking like Gwyneth Paltrow-slash-Paul Walker, will my life really improve drastically? Do you honestly think all the gorgeous creatures from Nakpil to Libis will be tripping over their feet trying to destroy my body with their love? Fat chance!

Knowing the natural tendency of Manila's wagging tongue to be malicious, rumors will start floating that I chew Xenical like sugarcoated candies or worse, I am heavy into "shabu." The same creatures who throw careless comments about my looking close to bovine will now while and say, "*Ang payat mo, ha* (You're skinny). What happened?" Then, they will do a quick turnaround and whisper, "*Naku*, he's so *payat* now. He must be: a) suffering from some really bad personal problems; b) on the eve of a nervous breakdown; c) undergoing a financial disaster; or worse d) *lugmok sa pinagbabawal na droga*."

Okay, so now I look at the mirror and see my belly sticking out like some accidental edge of a trapezoid and I sigh. Okay, I will wait until after the holiday season and go on a terminal diet (goodbye, Doritos; goodbye, Lapid's; goodbye, life!), re-enroll in a gym and refuse to stop until I have the firmness of muscle tone of Dyan Castillejo and Mark Nelson combined. I am going to sweat it out till blood literally comes out of my pores, have weekly facials, foot spas, manicures, pedicures—even perhaps inject Minoxidil straight in my scalp till I sprout more hair than Helena Bonham-Carter in the remake of "The Planet of the Apes."

I shall indulge in Operation Wow! (because anyone who catches the sight of a new me will salivate, lactate or even ejaculate, overwhelmed by the power of my sheer natural beauty). I will indulge in all kinds of herbal teas to cleanse my intestines, disinfect my stomach lining and, yes, bring me back my God-given right to have a waistline below 36.325 inches. I will buy industrial size boxes of Pampers and underwear protection for all the oil naturally dripping from my posterior as I gulp capsules, pills and everything they sell on TV shopping promising me an hourglass figure.

And when I finally achieve my ultimate goal to become the first Middle Age Filipino Sex Symbol who can talk intelligently about almost anything under the sun—from Derrida to Josh Hartnett's derriere—I am going to look up all these people who condemned me for my Fat Stage and make them want me and have me. Hah!

But in the meantime, before Operation Wow! takes into effect, I will gorge and exercise the powers of my digestive process and try every imaginable form of hysterical consumption just to see and test what sheer gluttony means. If somebody should again cross my path and sputter, "*Hoy, ang taba mo ngayon* (Hey, you've put on weight)," I will tell him, "*Oo. Mataba ako dahil meron akong pambili ng masarap na pagkain. Pakialam mo*? (Weight gain is a condition of affluence. What's it to you?)"

E-mail the author at javreyes@skyinet.net

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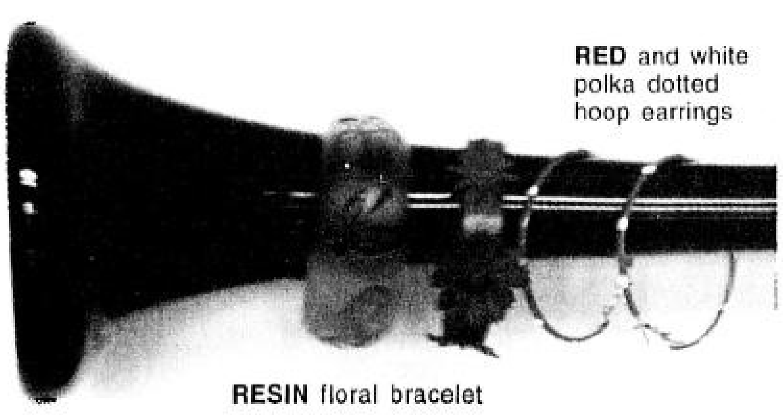
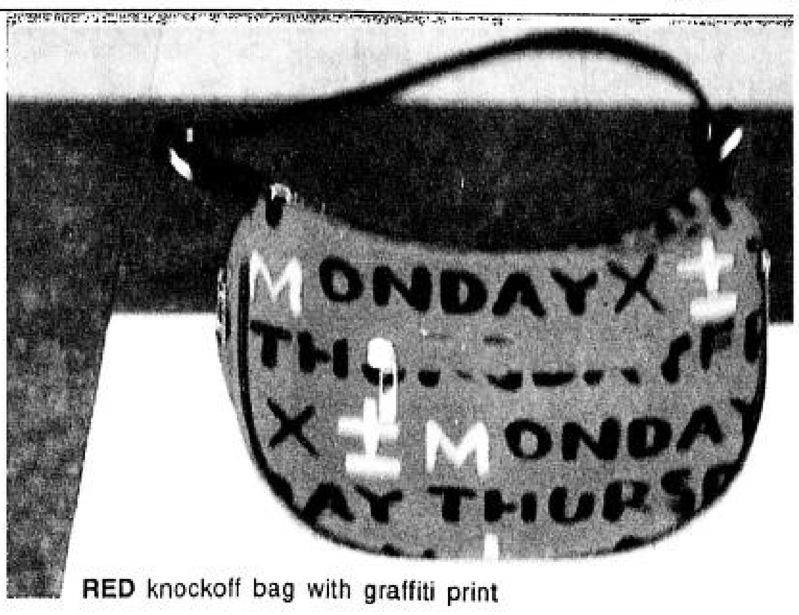
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0691 Series of 2001

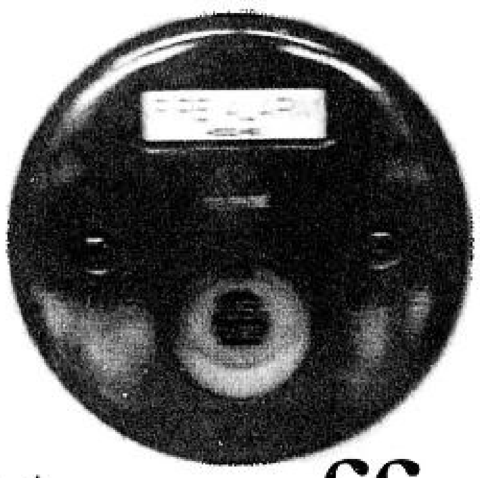


RED and white polka dotted hoop earrings

RESIN floral bracelet



RED knockoff bag with graffiti print



Get into the holiday mood but don't overdo it. Wear red, but sparingly

ALL ITEMS FROM BABO, 3/F GLORIETTA II, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI, TEL. 815-1235; PRICE RANGE OF FEATURED ITEMS: P150-P500

PINK and red plaid belt

RED canvass belt with colorful squares

Better off red

BY CAMILLE CRUZ
Contributor

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

IT'S almost December and some of us still haven't seen much of Santa's jolly old self in red. Usually red is seen everywhere. But not this year.

Instead of getting into the red spirit of Christmas inordinately, perhaps it's best to wear the color through smaller pieces such as accessories. These accessories can contribute to the holiday mood without being overbearing or you overdoing it.

At the Glorietta, I have discovered a little shop named Babo. It's filled with accessories for the body from head to toe. It has bracelets, watches, belts (tons of them), bags, earrings, necklaces and many more.

Bracelets, for example, come in leather, cloth and intricate Mexican-inspired beaded designs, aside from the usual metal. There are also soft, romantic featherweight ornaments.

Watches are fashionably cute with T-shirt print on the dial. Belts are colored, solid and printed. Bags are both originals and knockoffs. Necklaces are great for any neckline. For V-necklines, there are drop pendants. For round necklines, there are choker-types.

A great number is a leatherette floral red wristband matched with a pair of red and white polka dotted hoops. A resin-coated floral bangle is artistic and hip.

E-mail the author at camille.cruz@hotmail.com

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Dec. 12, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

APO HIKING SOCIETY & KIDS
Dec. 13, Beneficiary: Bahay Maria

CALVIN MILLADO, BITUIN ESCALANTE, & THE CAST OF RENT MANILA
Dec. 14, Beneficiary: DSWD-NCR through Destiny Cable

VINA MORALES
Dec. 15, Beneficiary: Make-A-Wish Foundation

ZSA ZSA PADILLA
Dec. 16, Beneficiary: Child and Youth Welfare Program

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CRIS VILLONCO & THE COMPANY
Dec. 21, Beneficiary: Bantay Bata 163

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Dec. 22, Beneficiary: CENTEX

All concerts at the Glorietta Activity Center, 6pm.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dec. 8, mass at 10am and a Christmas Fireworks Show with Cogie Domingo at the Town Plaza, 7pm.

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AYALA CENTER CEBU

VERNIE VARGA & KATRINA
Dec. 7, Activity Center, 5:30pm
Beneficiary: Cebu Hope Center

HUNI & FIVE SEASONS
Dec. 8, Activity Center, 6pm
Beneficiary: God Made Me Foundation

THE COMPANY
Dec. 16, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Christ for Asia Foundation

THE UNFORGETTABLES
Dec. 23, Lagoon Area, 7pm
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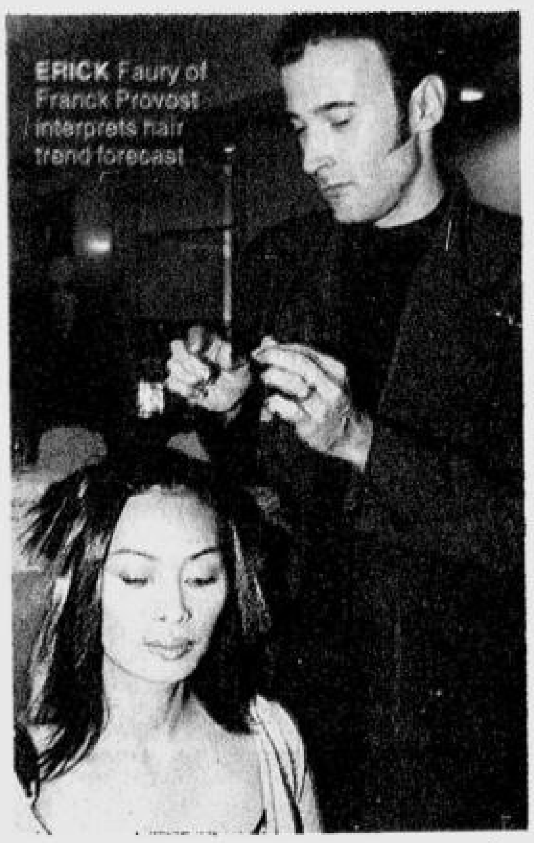
VICKY Lim of Kadus (second from left) flanked by models wearing hair forecasts of Salon de Orient, Hairbytes and Franck Provost

Show features hair trends

KADUS, the trusted partner of hairstylists around the world, makes a grand entrance in the Philippine scene via "Hair Trend Forecast" at the Greenbelt Mall's Onstage Theater on Dec. 10.

Organized by International Depot Corp., the product's local distributor, the show will feature renowned artists from the country's finest salons who will create various hairstyles using Kadus products.

The "Hair Trend Forecast" will have three categories: pret-a-porter, haute couture and avant-garde. Participating salons are Emphasis, Fanny Serrano, Franck Provost, H Salon, Hairbytes, Headzone, Paradigm, Basement, Salon de Manila and Salon de Orient.



ERICK Faury of Franck Provost interprets hair trend forecast

Get the high performance facial

VETERAN aesthetician Mila Co of Franck Provost (122 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati, tel. 895-3401 to 03) is known for facials that are indulgent, luxurious and therapeutic. The refresher focuses on gentle steaming, exfoliating, extractions, ampoule treatment, penetrated massage and a personalized mask. It gives the skin a boost. For congested skin types, Mila uses deep pore cleansing to kill bacteria and heal the skin.

Quick but effective shower

FA, the eco-friendly soap, offers some tips on how to ensure that a quick shower keeps you thoroughly clean without wasting precious time.

- Be prepared. Before entering the bathroom, have your clothes ready. Make sure there are enough water, soap and shampoo.
- Soap and shampoo well. Make sure that every part of your body is cleaned. Soap and shampoo should wash away dirt and grime, not destroy the natural chemicals of the skin.
- Rinse well to remove any soap or shampoo residue.

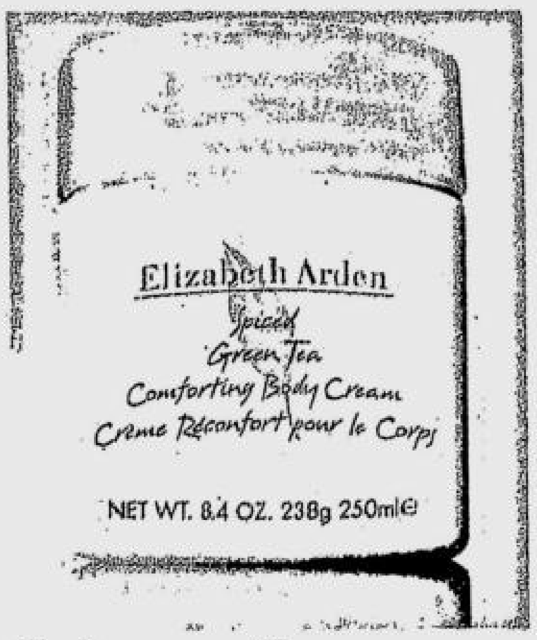
FA soap is pH-balanced and contains sodium lactate and glycerin, natural moisturizers that protect skin from dehydration. It is now available in 90 g packs at only P14.50 each.

Exciting fragrances launched

ESPRIT launches an exciting new range of fragrances: Esprit scents + senses.

The new collection is a rainbow of different scents, each with its own distinctive color—blue, green, white and red. Each scent comes in six different forms (eau de toilette, body spray, shower gel, body lotion, scented candles and incense stick).

Esprit scents + senses is available in Esprit boutiques, selected department stores and perfumeries.

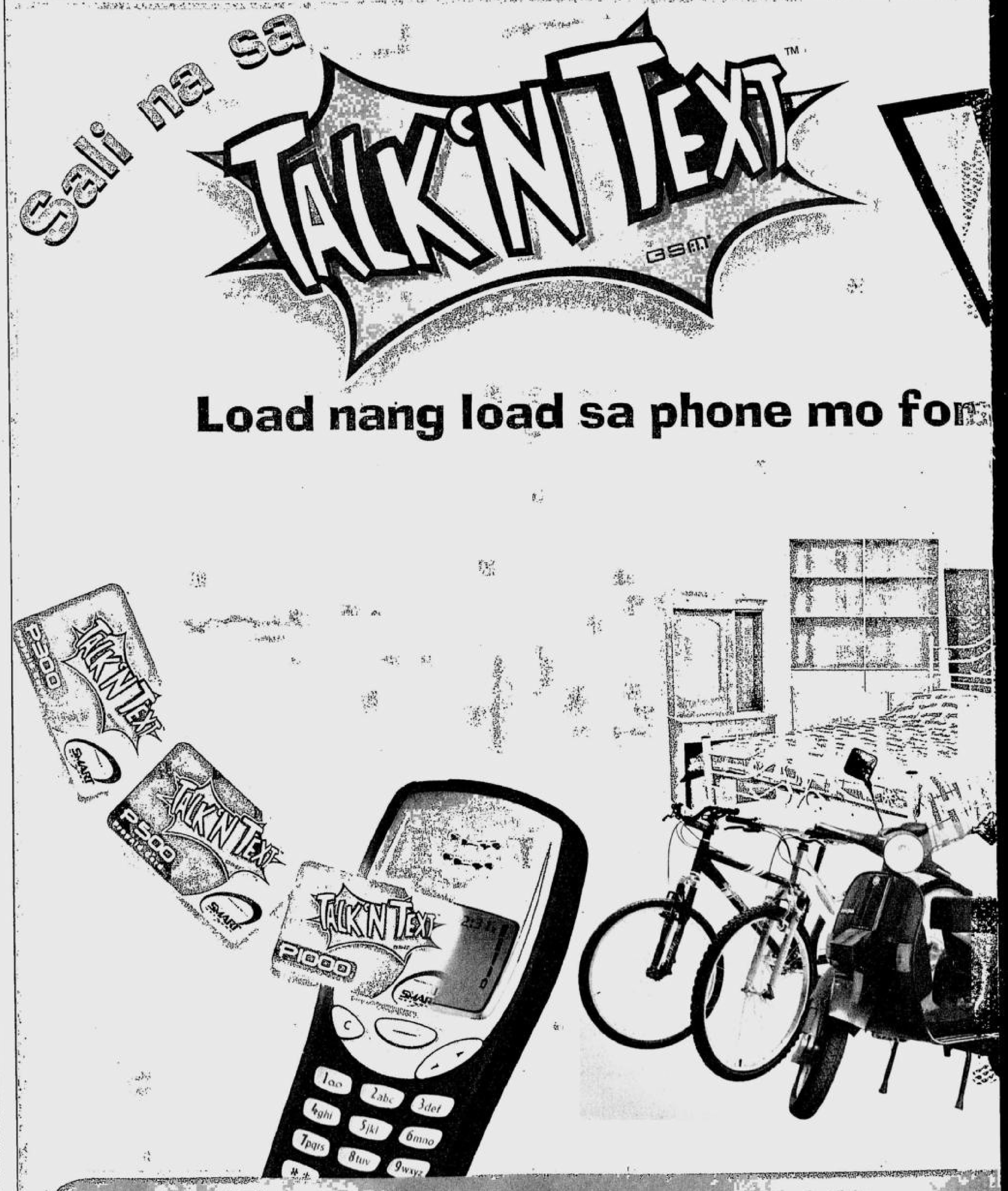


Spice up the season

ELIZABETH Arden puts a little spice into the season with a cozy new fragrance to warm body and soul with its Spiced Green Tea Scent Spray. The spray contains hints of cardamom, ginger, white amber and sandalwood to entice the senses and intrigue the spirit.

Also available is the Elizabeth Arden Spiced Green tea Comforting Body Cream, an all-over body smoother.

The new products are distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corp.



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DRAW 2 January 2, 2002	60 Penshoppe gift packs/ gift certificates (P1,000)	20 Penshoppe gift certificates (P2,000)	5 Penshoppe gift certificates (P4,000)
DRAW 3 January 16, 2002	60 Killer Loop Sunglasses	20 Killer Loop Sunglasses	5 Rayban Sunglasses
DRAW 4 January 30, 2002	60 Sony CD Walkmans	20 Aiwa Stereo CD components	5 Sony VCD Walkmans

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- The higher the denomination you load, the higher the prize value you get.
- For every draw, you can win more than once per category.
- You can inquire on the number of raffle entries you've accumulated by typing <ENTRIES> and send to 211. Cost is P2.50 per inquiry. You can also call Piltel Customer Hotline (02) 848-8888 (GMA) or (032) 232-3200 (VIS/MIN) or 15003 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.
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  must present their
  congratulatory text me
- Prizes not claimed aft

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Better for having loved and lost

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm at present trying to heal a wounded heart. It is never easy to forget someone who has become a part of our existence. And it is always painful to let go of our feelings for that person. But in my journey through life, I have learned to let go of the things that are not meant for me. I have loved and lost but do not regret anything. I know that the pain will cease in time although it will definitely leave a mark in my heart. Deep inside me, the hope remains that someday a man who will offer me a genuine, deep-seated love that will last would eventually come my way.

CARING SOUL

Thank you for sharing your feelings. Your letter will give a message to others, who have loved and lost, that they should also accept what happens, and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Just because love ends does not mean life also ends. You are right. Keep hoping, but don't let your mind end there. Live each day to the fullest, offer each day to the Lord. If you are meant to be a wife and mother, it will come to pass. Consider also the possibility that if you are meant for other assignments, He will show you the way. Each of us has a purpose in life.

Physically handicapped

I AM 32 years old, a third year mass communications undergraduate, a former newspaper reporter, physically handicapped and currently unemployed. I have a weak left arm and leg, and walk with a limp. At a young age I lost both my parents and I had to live with relatives, moving from one home to another because they never really accepted me.

Can you help me find a permanent job? I went to the National Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Project 4, but, despite my college level education and previous work experience, they did not let me get into computers. Because of this, I had to endure countless taunts and insults from the other trainees almost every day during my stay at NVRC. Despite their limited education, they somehow felt superior to me. They looked down on me because they were taking their preferred courses.

I have another problem. Do you think I can meet someone who will love me in spite of my disability? I often have bouts of depression. I need your advice so I can gain self-confidence. Will I remain single? In the past the Seminary of the Capuchins also rejected me.

DAVID VINCENT TABANIAG

Just remember, *hijo*, that when God closes a door, He opens a window. I am sorry I cannot help you find a job, but someone out there may have the answer. Do you have relatives who have a *sari-sari* store where you can offer your services? Or, maybe the NVRC, if they read this, might change their mind and take you in. Just remember, God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. Keep on praying.

As to your other problem, set it aside first. You have to accept the fact that girls will try to avoid suitors who do not measure up to their hopes. If you are jobless, you will not even be able to treat her to a bottle of soft drink. Just love yourself in the meanwhile.

We are facing hard times now, but just in case some readers will want to get in touch with this young man, his address is 93 Batino St., Project 3, QC.

* * *

Erratum: The correct address of Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls: Unit A Guevent Commercial Center, 52 M. Cruz corner Libertad, Mandaluyong City; tel. 531-0394/2157 local 101.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

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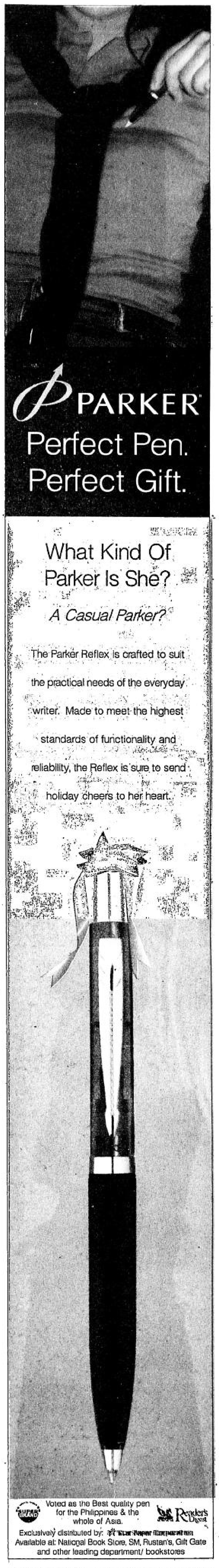

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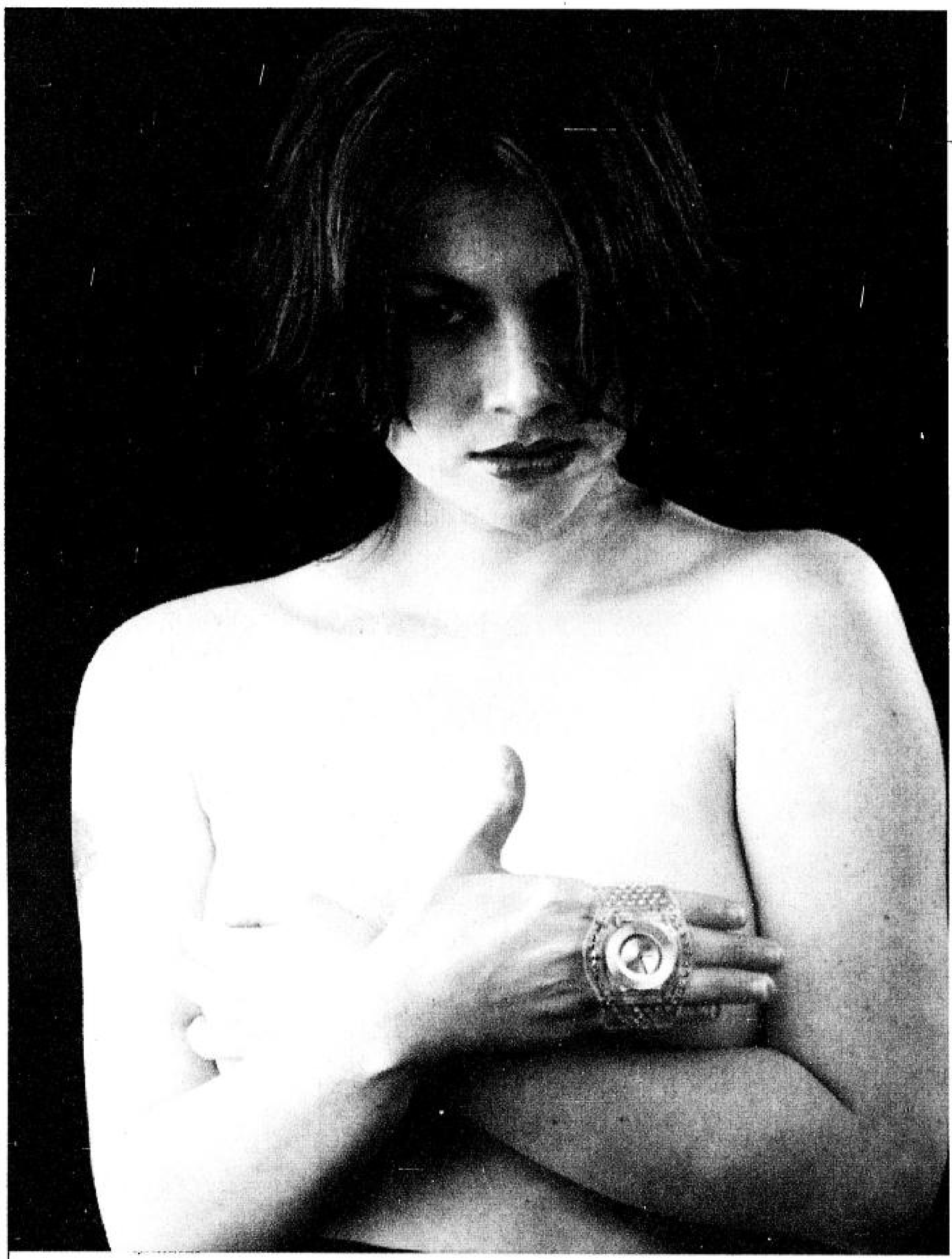
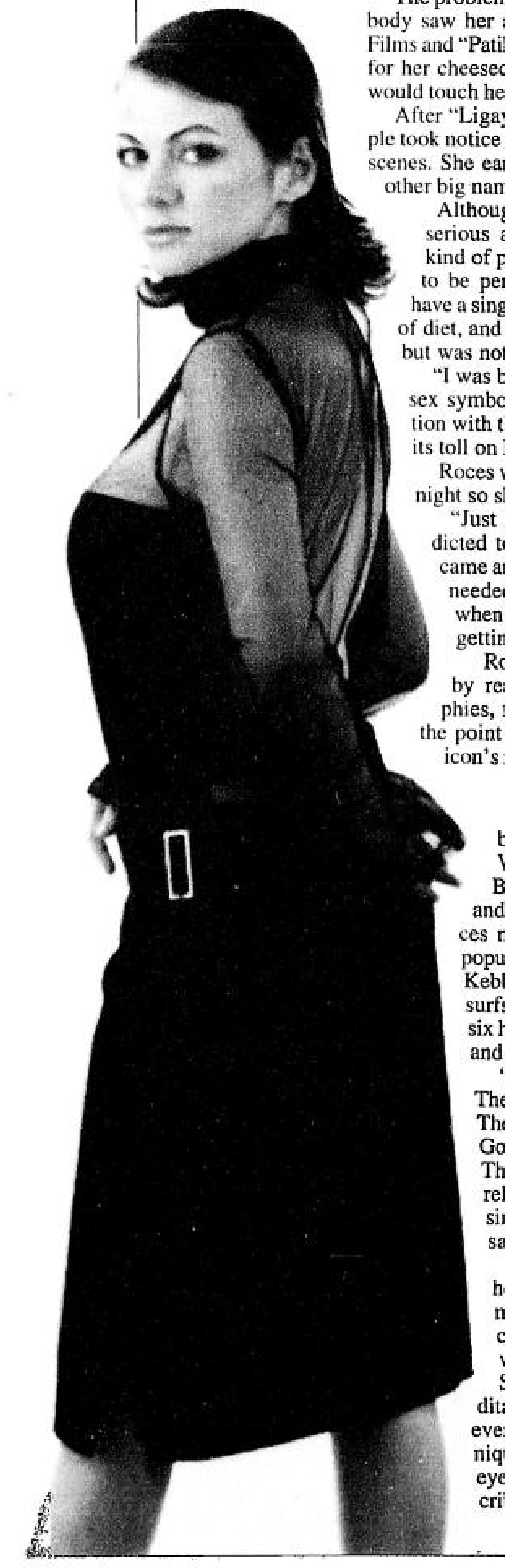


ROCES wears nothing but a diamond-studded Skin Watch.

From sinner to saint

(From page F1)



your personality different. You bring it at home," she says.

The problem with a sexy image is that everybody saw her as a body. In the days of Seiko Films and "Patikim ng Pinya," Roces was taunted for her cheesecake image. In the malls, people would touch her or cry, "*Maghubad ka.* (Strip)!"

After "Ligaya ang Itawag mo sa Akin," people took notice of her acting rather than the nude scenes. She earned respect as she worked with other big name directors such as Chito Roño.

Although she was now regarded as a serious actress, Roces faced a different kind of pressure. The public expected her to be perfect; people didn't want her to have a single gram of flab. She tried all kinds of diet, and took Bangkok pills and Xenical, but was not contented with the results.

"I was beginning to be a fake just to be a sex symbol," she says. All that identification with the physical body and image took its toll on her nerves.

Roces would pop a dozen tranquilizers a night so she could fall asleep.

"Just like Marilyn Monroe, I was addicted to sleeping pills ever since I became an actress. In the past eight years, I needed them, especially last October when I'd swallow nine to 12 pills. I was getting depressed," she says.

Roces began to fill the emptiness by reading. She started with biographies, focusing on Marilyn Monroe, to the point that she could identify with the icon's miseries.

Seeking enlightenment

She eventually graduated to books on spirituality such as "365 Ways of Happiness," " Banish the Blues," "Embraced by the Light" and "Conversations with God." Roces must have read just about every popular book on spiritual journey, the Kebbalah and meditation. She even surfs on the Internet for as much as six hours, reading on reincarnation and spirit guides.

"I don't have any religion. There are so many of them. They all teach one thing, about God. Why not just teach one? There are questions about religion that I had asked since I was young," she says.

One day, Belo brought her to Inner Space. The atmosphere of purity and unconditional love so overwhelmed Roces that she wept.

She then took up raja yoga meditation. Now she carries it out everywhere because the technique can be practiced open-eyed. It cannot really be ascribed to mantras or gurus or any practice. It enables one to experience the depth of inner peace.

Chilling out

While she's being made up before she faces the camera, Rosanna meditates and feels totally oblivious to the pre-show pressures.

Raja yoga meditation has helped her become unaffected by gross, external situations.

"I'm just a soul. I'm learning to smile. I learned that when you smile, it makes someone happy," she says.

She always carries mini-joss sticks and lights them up when she's feeling stressed out. Roces jokes that they come in handy when performing ablutions in the bathroom.

Previously, it was easy to provoke Roces into a controversy. That has changed.

"I'm not as *maldita* as before. *Para sumikat, awayin mo ako alam nilang sasagot ako. Ngayon dedma*," she says. Her husband is surprised that the actress has stopped cussing at home.

She is unfazed about her libel case, which was filed earlier this year (she called somebody a car thief on the air; she denied it was intentional, explaining she was merely repeating what had been reported in the media). However, she wished that her income at "Star Talk" would be put to good use helping the urban poor rather than paying for lawyer's fees.

Her views on sex are no different from other women. It can be pleasurable or it can just be duty. Like most people, she also needs space for herself.

Believe it or not, sex goddess Rosanna Roces is turning spiritual

Integrity

Despite her sexy and audacious image, Roces had always maintained her integrity.

"I have never associated with the show-biz crowd. I have my own world. Do you see me in parties? After work, I go home. I never went to 'gimmicks' because I'm married. I feel safe at home," she says.

Molina has been her longest and most stable partner. "He's Libra and I'm Gemini. We make a good pair. He's like my guide and my daddy. I think he's a reincarnation of my father."

She and her husband own an auto detailing store and a barber shop. Roces says it was only in her last movie that she was paid handsomely. When she first started, her fee was P40,000, but because of the taxes, she brought home only P28,000.

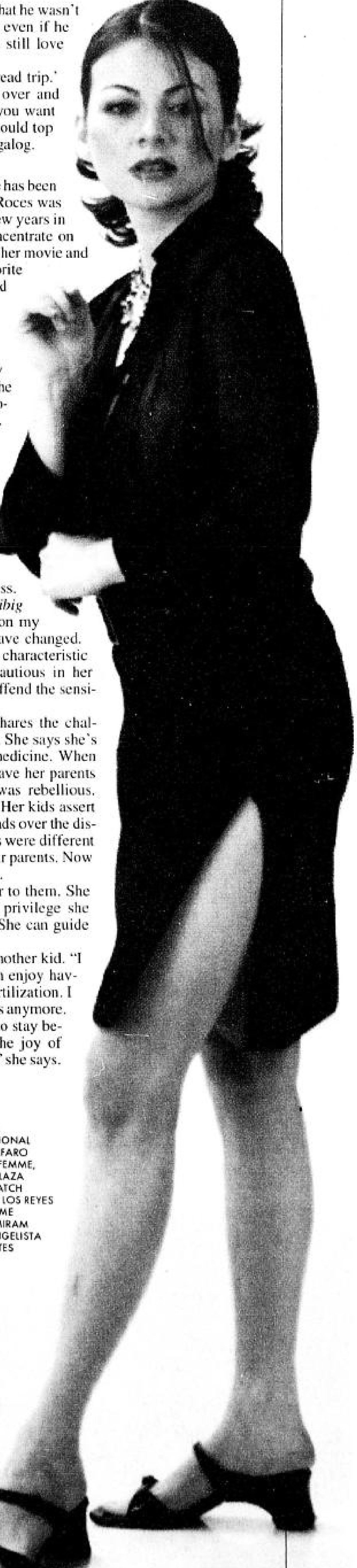
"They say strike while the iron is hot. So I accepted all offers, down to small commercials and even singing. I was out of the house all the time," she says.

She admits that there were some bumps in her marriage. There was also a time when she was "out of the country" (to say "Brunei" is like opening a Pandora's box).

Molina has been a gentleman regarding Roces' huge income.

"He has accepted the fact that he wasn't going to get rich. I told him even if he didn't have money, I would still love him," she says.

"I'm through with the 'bread trip.' After doing the same thing over and over again for seven years, you want something different and it should top the last one," she says in Tagalog.



Downshifting

This downshifting lifestyle has been planned accordingly. When Roces was a starlet, she gave herself a few years in the movies and hopes to concentrate on her family life. She's limiting her movie and TV jobs in favor of her favorite role, playing wife to Molina and mother to her children, Grace and Robert.

In deference to her children, she has been very selective with her projects. They have been complaining of the bad comments about their mother from their schoolmates. She says her children are under terrific pressure. When they hear unpleasant things, they get into quarrels.

At the start of her career, Roces was like a loose cannonball. She shocked and amused the public with her forthrightness. "*Dati, walang preno ang bibig ko.* (I don't put any brakes on my speech)," she says. Times have changed. Although she maintains her characteristic frankness, Roces is more cautious in her speech, especially if it will offend the sensibilities of her children.

The 29-year-old parent shares the challenges of raising pre-teeners. She says she's getting a dose of her own medicine. When she was a teenager, Roces gave her parents a tough time because she was rebellious. Now the tables have turned. Her kids assert themselves willfully. She hands over the discipline to her husband. "Kids were different then. They were afraid of their parents. Now they answer back," she says.

Nonetheless, she is closer to them. She takes her kids to school, a privilege she never had seven years ago. She can guide them with their homework.

Rosanna wants to have another kid. "I plan to get pregnant so I can enjoy having a baby. I want in vitro fertilization. I can't embrace or kiss my kids anymore. In the mall they don't want to stay beside you. I want to share the joy of giving birth with somebody," she says.

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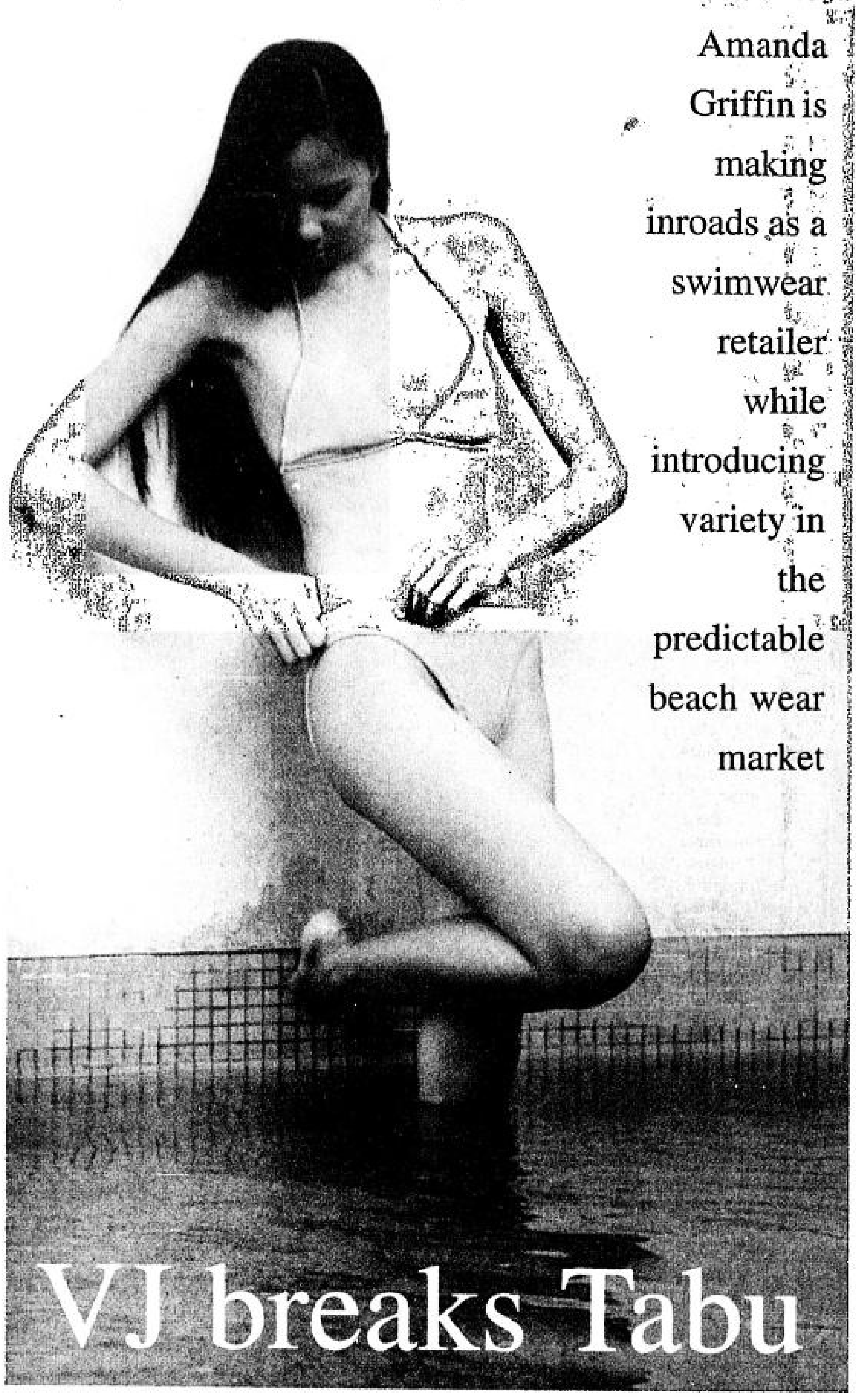


Amanda Griffin is making inroads as a swimwear retailer while introducing variety in the predictable beach wear market

VJ breaks Tabu

THE MAIN attraction of Tabu, a store specializing in swimwear, isn't necessarily the merchandise, but the partner who is also a model and occasional TV host. Amanda Griffin, a spokesperson for a feminine hygiene product and a VJ, has been learning the ropes of retailing of Tabu.

Although it may seem like a tough time to a start a business when the worldwide economy is sinking, Tabu is making a niche in the upscale market. Now is the time to shop for swimwear as everybody heads for the beach during the holidays.

Griffin comes from Australia, where a swimsuit is a wardrobe essential. Visit the Gold Coast during summer, and everybody is walking around in bathing suits in the streets and in the malls. Like most people raised Down Under, she enjoys the beach. However, at first, she couldn't find fashionable swimwear in the Philippines, compared with Australia where swimwear is an industry. The choices here were not only limited but also overpriced.

With partner Isabel Engwa, Amanda started importing Australian swimwear. At first they did direct selling at home. Before one long holiday, everybody snapped up the merchandise. The duo eventually sold their products in a sports store to test market acceptance.

Discovering that the swimwear market in the Philippines has yet to be tapped, the partners opened a 24-sq-m store called Tabu at Greenbelt Shopping Plaza. The name makes a pun on "taboo" because sexy swimwear is more than what the conservative Filipina has been used to.

Griffin says the most saleable styles are the tankinis (even if they're "out" in Australia), maillots and slightly padded bikinis and underwired bra tops.

For the Filipina who has a *puson* (a lumpy belly), the tankini augurs well. "You feel sexy in it," says Griffin. The wearer need not look frumpy just to cover her flaws.

Griffin observes that although Filipinas tend to be conservative in swimwear, they still want the styles to be fashionable. It's hard to identify the typical customer. Although most of her customers are in the 20s and 30s age group, the top spenders are women over 40 who buy several pieces in one visit. Some women with great bodies will prefer the laid-back styles. Others don't go for suits that border on raciness.

To keep the market interested in the product, stocks are replenished weekly and sold in limited editions to minimize duplication in styles. The prices range from P1,800 to P7,000 (the price of a maillot with mesh and pads that give a nice cleavage). Matching shirts, shorts, cover-ups, beach towels and slippers complement the merchandise.

Plans are afoot to consign their merchandise at Le Soleil hotel in Boracay.

Swimsuit sales are seasonal. During the off-season or rainy months, the store will introduce other interesting garments to entice customers.

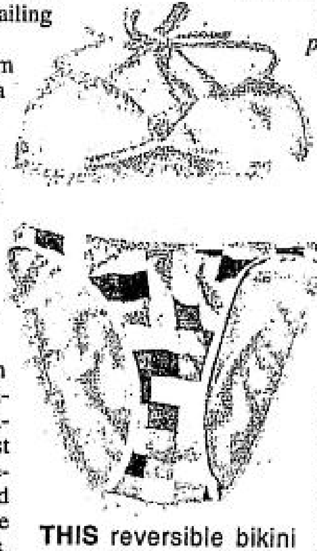
On trends, Griffin cites the popularity of fruit motifs and maillots. Contrary to the notion that boyleg bikinis suit pear-shaped women, Griffin says the style is not too flattering to the Filipina who tends to be bottom heavy. "You've got to be really skinny to wear thin." The cinched bikinis, popularized by "Charlie's Angels," are enjoying a revival.

Other big trends include geometric prints, florals in the '60s mod style, hot hues like red and blues, and '80s glam style.

Griffin does the buying, rough numbers, marketing and promotion for Tabu. When the business gets settled, she plans to get modeling jobs again around the region.

"Modeling is my investment," Griffin says.

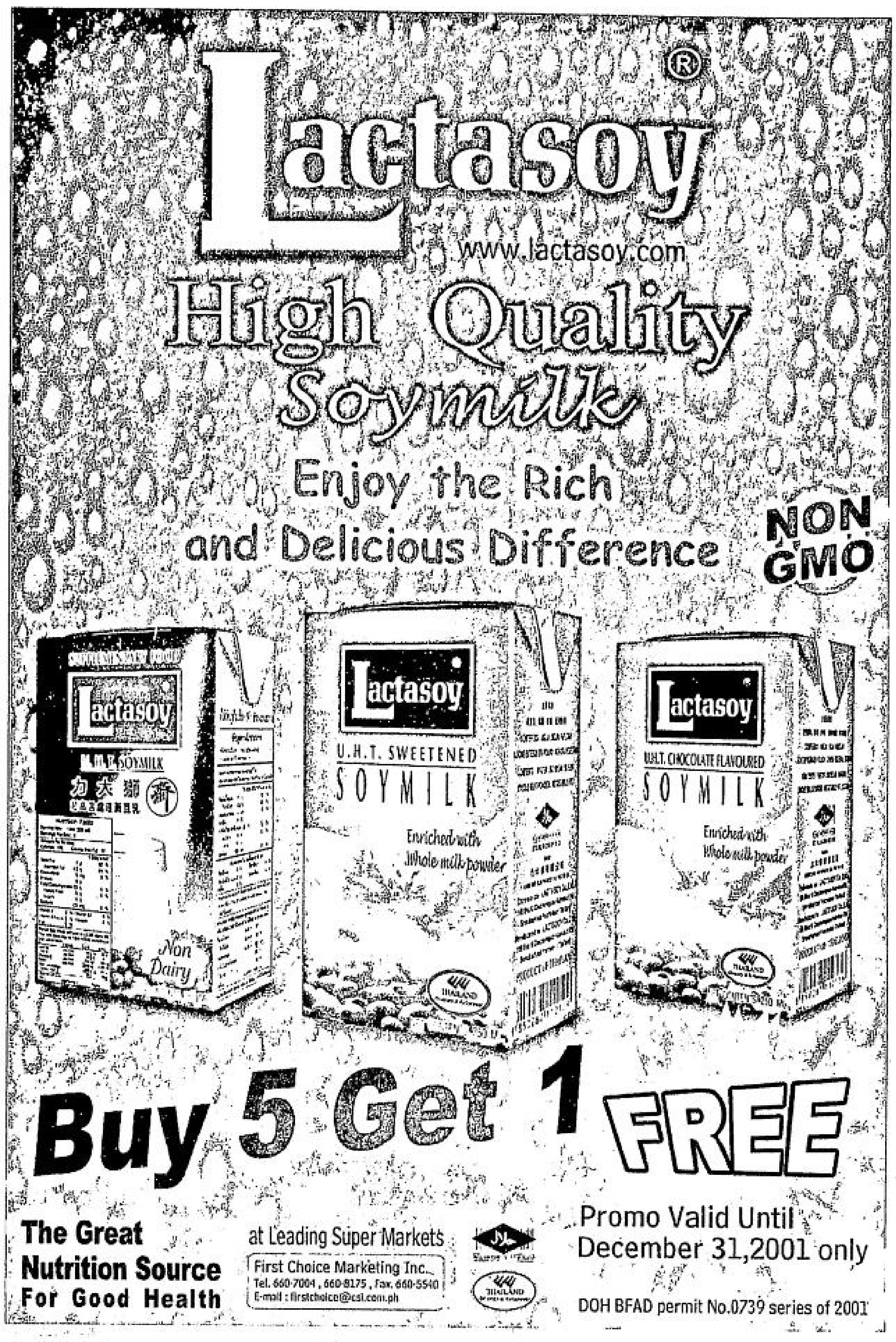
Marge C. Enriquez



THIS reversible bikini is a Tabu bestseller. The softly padded cups add fullness to a modest bosom.

THIS towel has a hidden pouch.

PHOTO: WAHOO GUERRERO
MODEL: MARJAY RAMIREZ,
ESAC SUPERMODEL 2001
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
JOJO ARJONA AND LOURD RYAN RAMOS,
EMPHASIS SALON,
ROCKWELL INFORMATION CENTER
LOCATION: ROCKWELL CLUB



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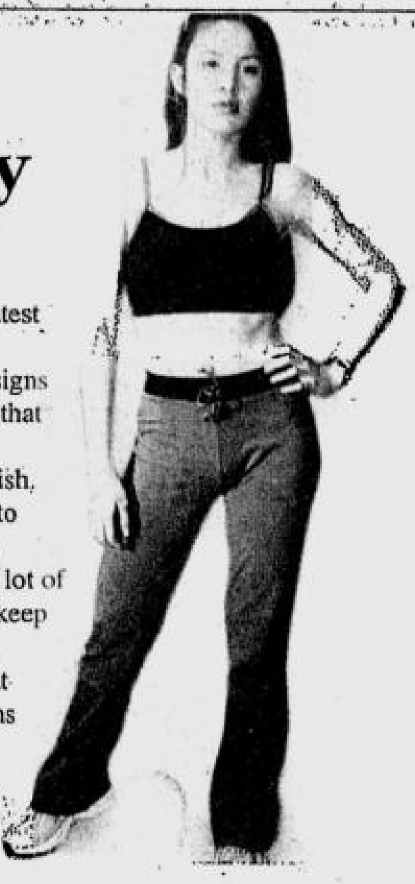
Clothes for holiday workouts



L.A. Gear unveiled recently its latest casual, aerobic and active wear collections featuring hot new designs and comfortable fabrics to make that trip to the gym or any outdoor excursion more exciting and stylish.

Made of 100-percent cotton to provide maximum comfort and durability, the collections offer a lot of choices for women who wish to keep fit even during the holidays.

L.A. Gear stores are located at the Ayala Center Cebu, Robinsons Place Expansion Mall, SM Manila, SM City North Edsa and SM Southmall.

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Hang loose in right attire

HANG loose with friends and family this Yuletide season in the latest zestful and colorful collection of Hang Ten Philippines, a popular casual clothing brand for the youth market segment.

Now on its fifth year in the Philippines, Hang Ten not only offers trendy yet practical get-ups but also accessories like bags, shoes and belts in creative designs and shades.

Hang Ten branches are in Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. It recently opened branches in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, Pacific Mall in Legazpi City and SM Davao. All Hang Ten products are imported.

Yearend sale

QUIKSILVER Boardriders Club and Surf World offer new and amazing promos for customers to enjoy this Christmas season.

A grand yearender sale offers discounts of up to 50 percent on all items. Three promos allow customers to win prizes. A minimum purchase of P1,000 means a chance to pick a prize from a fishbowl while a minimum purchase of P3,000 comes with a free T-shirt. For a minimum purchase of P5,000, a customer gets a free Quiksilver/Roxy cap.

Sale and promos last until Dec. 31. Quiksilver is located at the 2/L Power Plant Mall and Surf World Shops are located at 3/L SM Megamall B, 2/L Glorietta 4 and 2/L Festival Mall.

Agency sues supermodel

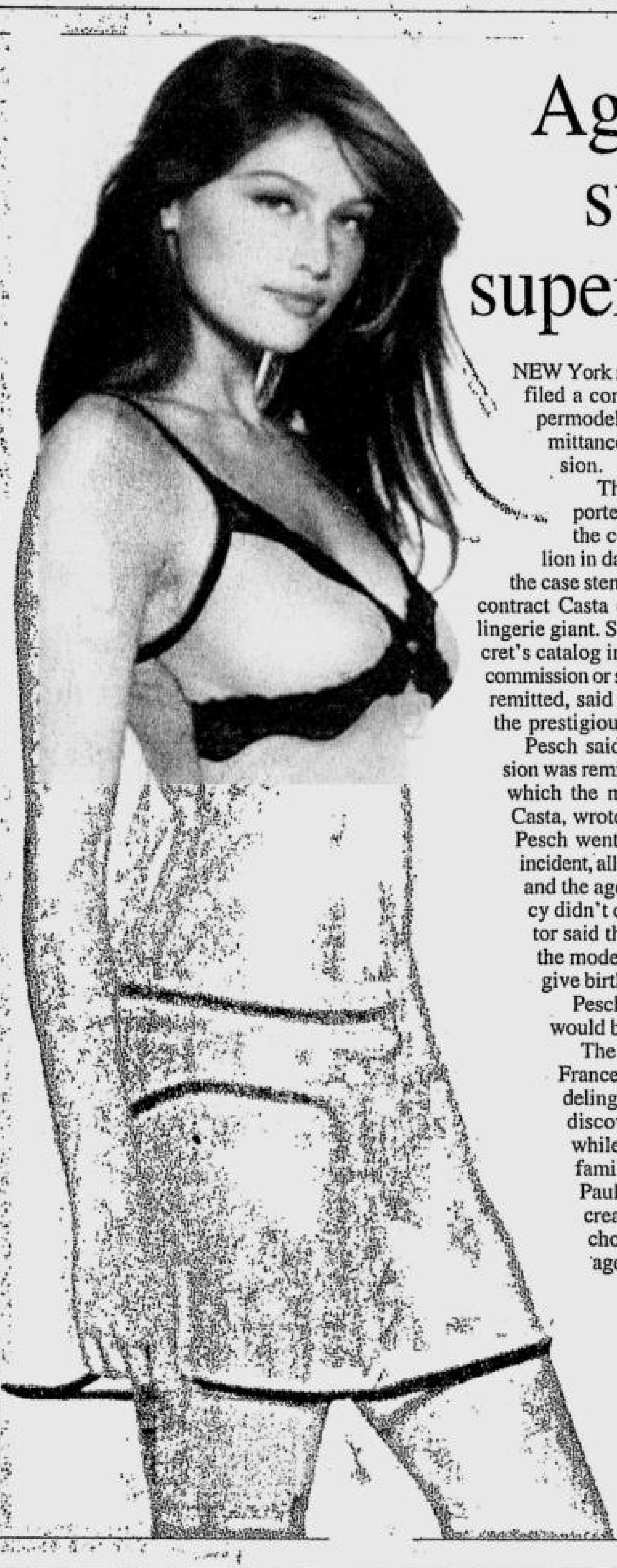
NEW York modeling agency, Madison, filed a complaint against French supermodel Laeticia Casta for non-remittance of the agency's commission.

The French weekly Voici reported that the agency has asked the court for a total of $19 million in damages. It was reported that the case stemmed from the $2.5 million contract Casta earned from an American lingerie giant. She posed for Victoria's Secret's catalog in late 1999. The 33 percent commission or some $800,000 was not fully remitted, said Edward Pesch, director of the prestigious agency.

Pesch said that part of the commission was remitted before June 2000, after which the model's father, Dominique Casta, wrote to denounce the contract. Pesch went on to say that before this incident, all was well between the model and the agency. Asked why the agency didn't complain sooner, the director said they did it out of respect for the model. They waited for Casta to give birth.

Pesch added he hopes that there would be an amiable settlement.

The 5'8" model was born in France. At 15, her interest in modeling was sparked when she was discovered by a photographer while lying on a beach with her family. While on a trip to Paris, Paul Marciano, president and creative director of Guess Inc., chose her as the brand's image model.



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Harry is the triumph of the single mom

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

J.K. ROWLING. Single mother driven to succeed

AFTER ALL that's been said, what I love most about "Harry Potter," next to the miracle that it brought back my youngest kid to reading, is that it was written by a single mom.

Joanne Kathleen (the second name taken after the author's favorite grandma) **Rowling** was a hard-up single mom who had just left her husband of one year (Oct. 16, 1992 to Nov. 17, 1993, to be exact) in Portugal in 1993, when she plunged assiduously into writing Harry Potter. She was living in a rat-infested flat in Edinburgh with her daughter, who's now 7, and worrying about how to make both ends meet. As everyone now knows, she'd write her opus in a café, over espresso (for two hours minimum) and countless Marlboro Lights, as her baby slept in her pushchair.

Near-starvation yielded the bestseller. Of course, she has always been imaginative and has had this passion for writing since she was a kid—she wrote her first story at 6. But as I've always believed, there's nothing like the indomitable spirit of a single mom to get things done. I see that everywhere, not only in J.K. Rowling. It takes a mother who has to feed a child or a brood, who wants the best for her family, to try to do the impossible.

Now I must confess that in our publishing firm, when interviewing a job applicant, my eyes light up the moment the applicant admits to being a single parent and thus needs the job badly. A thoroughbred workhorse, I tell myself, who'll be driven to earn. And in most cases, time proves me right.

Good achiever

My boss **Ernie** loves to say that behind a

HARRY/ p.G5

> Potter is the triumph of reading over just passive watching, the triumph of one woman over a failed marriage

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Fair showcases culinary arts

GOINGS-ON

PHILFAIR presents the 6th Culinary, Kitchen and Food Expo 2001 until Dec. 9, at the Megatrade Hall #1, 5/F Building B of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

READING CONFERENCE. To update teachers on teaching techniques, the Reading Association of the Philippines will hold an "echo" conference on Dec. 8, at the Escaler Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. With the theme "Literary Empowerment for Teachers: Tools for Success," the conference focuses on topics which can help teachers succeed in their reading classes. All RAP members are invited. The final guidelines for the IRA Reading Conference, which will be held in San Francisco in April 2002, will be given. Call 823-5077 or 426-6001, local 7154.

SEMINAR. Jaime Licauco will hold an Inner Mind Development Seminar on Dec. 8 and 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Rm 308, Prince Plaza Building, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. The seminar will develop people's ability to control stress and reprogram their brains for greater achievement and more positive habit patterns. It will also help them develop right brain intuitive thinking for creative problem solving, self-healing and achievement of whatever goals they may have. Call the Inner Mind Development Institute at 810-7245 or 892-6806.

SILVER JUBILEE. Sacred Heart College of Nursing (Lucena) will mark its Silver Jubilee on Dec. 15 at the SHC Gymnasium, Lucena City. Call Sacred Heart Information Office at (042)710-3888 or (042)710-2505.

SUMMIT. A summit on Construction Development Agenda (Conda) will bring together industry allies from both government and private sectors to strengthen their network and address common concerns in the coming decade. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be the keynote speaker of the summit to be held Dec. 12-13 at the Philippine International Convention Center that will highlight this year's celebration of National Architecture Week. Initiated by the United Architects of the Philippines, with MDP Events Management Specialists, participants will include architects, engineers, builders, contractors, developers, businessmen and other professionals involved in the construction industry. Call 551-4329, 551-4233, 531-2097, 534-5334; fax 534-5333.

EXHIBIT. The Young Advocates, with Exhibit Trends, is inviting kids 5-12 years old to join Young Advocates' Art for Earth's Sake. The kiddie workshop will be held in connection with "Exhibit Trends: Trendy Christmas Exhibit" until Dec.15, 1 p.m. at G/L San Miguel Entrance, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas, QC.

BAZAARS. The St. James Christmas bazaar will be held on Dec. 8 and 9, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Cuenca covered court, Ayala Alabang Village. Products include holiday foods, Christmas decor, Vietnamese lacquerware, Mexican and Filipino ethnic products and handicrafts, decorative candles, toys, shoes, native and imported bags, export overruns, imported and local clothes for adults and children, house decor, furniture, wrought iron and paintings. Proceeds will benefit the St. James Foundation, which will undertake the construction of the Community Center of the Parish of St. James the Great.

Global Planners Inc. presents a bazaar called Holiday Gifts Galore, which will be held Dec. 19 and 20, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Proceeds from the bazaar will finance the various projects of the Kababaihan Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong, a women's advocate group which offers livelihood opportunities for the women of Mandaluyong City. The bazaar will feature items like baskets made of recycled materials, soaps, detergents, stuffed toys and candles.

Visit the NBC Tent at Bonifacio Global City for the "Shop @thefort" Christmas bazaar on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23. Enjoy top-of-the-line merchandise from the country's top importers and exporters, like novelty items, decor, garments, toys, books, fashion accessories. The bazaar will also sell homemade holidays goodies like pastries, deli items, pate and pasta sauces.

RITUAL. A whole-day affair at the University of the Philippines on Dec. 10 will dramatize its stand on violence against women and children. The program kicks off with an opening ritual at 9 a.m., where representatives of the UP faculty, employees, students, Barangay UP Campus residents and the All-UP Workers' Union will raise their voices against VAW. Volunteers will also craft a tapestry on the theme "Make UP a Violence-Against-Women (VAW)-Free Community." This will take place throughout the day starting from the opening ritual until 6 p.m. The UP Colleges of Music, Arts and Literature and Fine Arts will hold a ritual music and theater presentation. At 6 p.m., a solidarity ritual to end VAW will be invoked and the tapestry will be presented. By 7 p.m., excerpts from "Vagina Monologues" and a "Concert against VAW" will be staged.

WORKSHOP. CFS Continental Technology holds the Training the Trainer seminar this month. The short-course workshop is designed to equip supervisors and managers with skills through modules on Customer Service, Creative Selling and Telemarketing. The schedule is: "Customer Service that Works," Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Telemarketing that Sells," Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-12 noon; and "The Challenges of Creative Selling," Dec. 14, 1-5 p.m. Call 823-4825/2358.

REUNIONS. The University of the Philippines Integrated School Class of 1986 will hold its 15th year reunion on Dec. 15 at the AFP Multipurpose Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Dubbed "15 Yrs L8r, Ano Nang L8est?" the grand reunion will be preceded by a Family Day tomorrow at 1 p.m. at the new building on the UPIS grounds. Call 0917-3796017 or 841-1610 or 0918-944-9000.

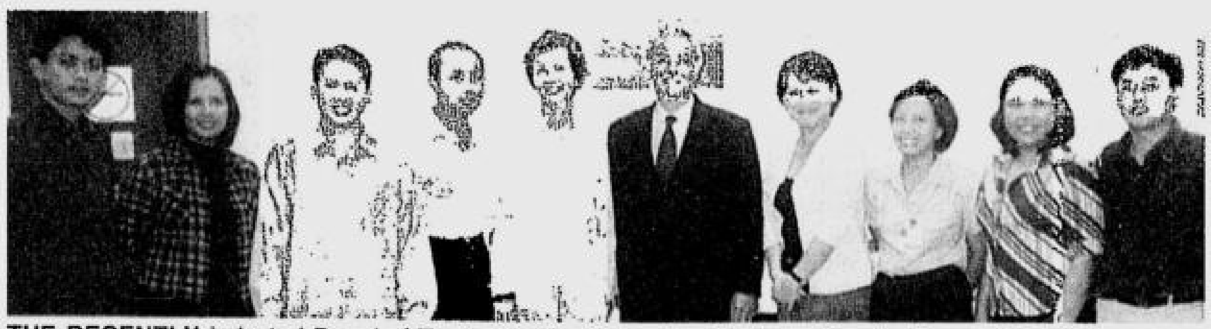
Class 1958 of Rizal High School will hold its 43rd reunion on Dec. 16 at Marigold in Buting, Pasig City. Call Juliet Landrito-Lorenzo at 631-1150, Praxedes San Miguel-De la Rosa at 655-3958, Consuelo Canlas-Callang at 873-1317 or Bonifacio Reyes at 641-1440.

SALE. Adarna House holds its annual Christmas sale up to Dec. 15 at the Adarna House showroom, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, QC. Discounts of up to 50 percent are available on Adarna children's books, gift items, young adult novels and other publications. Adarna House also hosts basic toymaking workshops for parents and children. The Toys for Stories workshop will be held tomorrow and on Dec. 15, 9 a.m.-12 nn. Admission fee is P50. Admission will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 372-3548 to 49.

TOUR PACKAGE. Museo De la Salle, a lifestyle museum of De la Salle University-Dasmariñas, now offers tour packages. The package rates are from P80/head-P250/head. These include an entrance fee, a guided tour to the museum collection, lunch or snacks at La Buena Comida, a café located at the museum's ground floor, and optional souvenir items. Bookings must be made at least two weeks in advance. Special discount rates are offered for student groups. Museo De la Salle is at the De la Salle University-Dasmariñas in Cavite. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call (02) 844-7832/844-9116/(046) 416-4531, local 3151. Look for Cecile T. Gelicame.

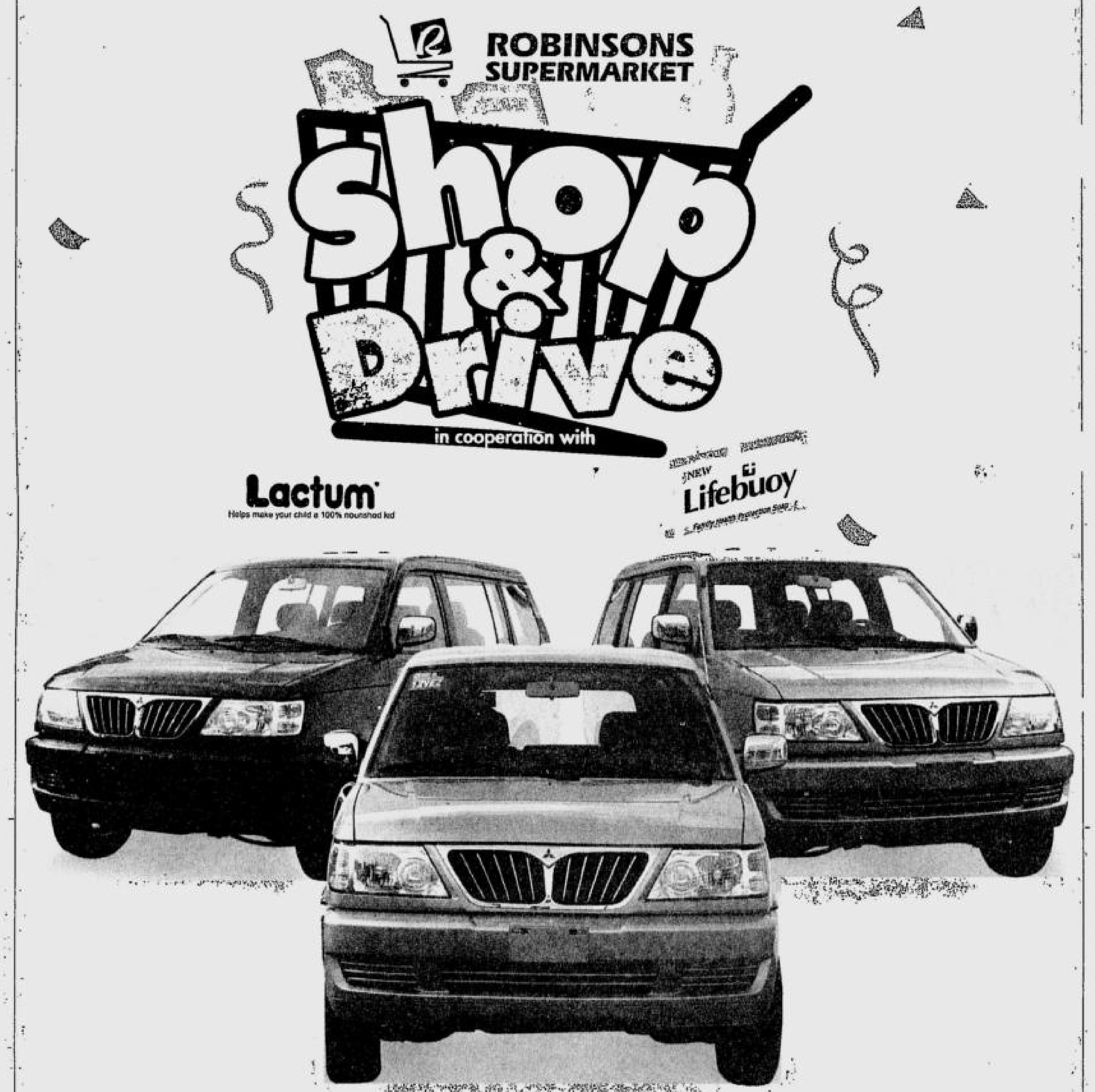
ST. James the Great Christmas bazaar committee: (seated from left): Mimi Valerio, Msgr. Chito Bernardo; (standing, from left): Nikki Valerio, Manny Gonzales, Titang Montinola and Edza Gonzales.

GIFT items by Priced Possessions, one of the exhibitors at Shop @thefort, Dec. 8 and 9 at the NBC Tent


THE RECENTLY inducted Board of Trustees of the Canadian Embassy Locally Engaged Staff Association Inc. poses with Canadian Ambassador Roberet Collette (center). Photo shows (from left) Rox Sendin, auditor; Jil Fernandez-Ragsac, assistant treasurer; Tommy Casal, treasurer; Michelle Insigne, vice-president; Menchi Banal-Padilla, president; Marife Villanueva, PRO; Cris Pineda, Special Projects; Tiffany Urrutia, secretary; and Jasper Po, assistant secretary.

START YOUR ENGINES!

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET



It's time to find out who will be the lucky winners of 3 Mitsubishi Adventures in Robinsons Supermarket's Shop & Drive Promo!

GRAND DRAW

December 9, 2001
at Robinsons Galleria,
Fountain Area
3:00 pm

See the Retrospect band LIVE with your favorite DJs as emcees. Plus, fun mascots and exciting parlor games!

- Winners will be notified via telegram.
- Winners must bring a valid ID upon claiming of prizes.
- Prizes may be claimed at the Marketing Services Department of Robinsons Supermarket Corporation, 110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City

Galleria • Ermita • Tutuban Center • Metropolis, Alabang • Imus • Los Baños • Cebu • Bacolod • Iloilo

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET

Per DTI-NCR Permit 2550 Series of 2001

PRC names new librarians

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission has announced that 28 applications for registration as librarians without examination were approved pursuant to Board Resolution No. 07, Series of 2001 dated Nov. 23, 2001, which was issued by the Board for Librarians.

Oathtaking rites will be held at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil corner Adriatico Streets, Ermita, Manila. The new librarians are the following:

Abrigo, Carmelita A.; Agueto, Virginia N.; Alejandria, Guillerma I.; Andaya, Flordeliza L.; Articulo, Alicia B.; Bayon-on Ruth A.; Consolacion, Anicia C.; Dayason, Lucia S.; David, Jocelyn C.; Decena, Elnora S.; Delubiar, Melinda I.; Faderon, Rosalie B.; Furio, Maria G.; Ganias, Luz P.; Lacuesta, Avelina R.; Limjuco, Agnes C.; Lumasag, Antonina O.; Misola, Consuelo C.; Moreto, Marlene M.; Naval, Cecilia P.; Neria, Miriam A.; Ogbinada, Marilyn E.; Pajulas, Mustiola B.; Patnugot, Virginia E.; Robles, Ester V.; Sanchez, Luningning D.; Torres, Susana I.; Valdez, Marietta A.

Registration for the issuance of Certificate of Registration is ongoing until Dec. 12.

Those who will register are required to bring the following: residence certificate, 3 1½ x 1½ photos, 1 2x2 photo with name tag, 6 documentary stamps, 1 small brown envelope and registration fee of P400.

Manila is introduced to a remarkable timepiece

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

OMEGA, one of the finest Swiss watches, strengthens its reputation for innovation and quality with the introduction last Tuesday of its latest timepiece, the Omega De Ville. The new watch is the result of years of extensive product development in collaboration with the renowned British master watchmaker George Daniels.

Sales and marketing project manager Oliver Hugentobler and product manager Andre Nunziata flew in from Omega's world headquarters in Bienne, Switzerland to personally present the remarkable timepiece. According to Nunziata, the heart of De Ville's technology is a double coaxial escape wheel and a new lever design with three ruby pallet-stones, which reduce friction and improve the long-term accuracy of the watch.

The Omega De Ville comes in 18k yellow-gold and stainless steel models. It carries the same classic lines as other Omega watches, particularly the Central Tourbillon first issued in 1994. One particularly striking feature is the intricately interlinked metal bracelet with satin-finished central links and polished edges that give greater comfort to the wearer.

For those who prefer leather, De Ville also comes with a rolled-edged alligator leather strap with polished foldover clasp in 18-K gold or stainless steel. The yellow-gold model is elegantly set off by silver or dark blue dials, while the steel model has contrasting black or ruthenium dials. The lighter-colored dials are further enhanced by a blue steel seconds hand.

Omega, now part of the prestigious Swatch Group, was founded in 1848 by Louis Brandt in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. The official timekeeper in no less than 21 Olympic Games, it introduced the first electronic timekeeping at the 1952 Helsinki Olympiad. In 1965, the Omega Speedmaster was chosen by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) as its official chronometer. Four years later, in July 1969, it earned the distinction of being the first watch to reach the moon. Neil Armstrong was wearing it when he made his historic "one small step for man, a giant leap for mankind."

World luminaries who have been closely associated with Omega include supermodel Cindy Crawford, actor Pierce Brosnan, tennis teen sensation Anna Kournikova and World Formula 1 racing champion Michael Schumacher.

The Philippine launch, held at the Makati Shangri-La, was attended by local celebrities like tinseltown's royal couple, Richard Gomez and his dazzling wife Lucy, actress Gelli de Belen, composer Archie Castillo, socialite Claudia Bermudez, F.E. Zuellig general manager Louie Vargas and dapper game show host Edu Manzano who emceed the lively event.

And the winners are . . .

MODELQUEST 2001, the three-month-long search for new ramp stars conducted by Mel Meer's Bergamo Boutique and 5060 Café-Bar, had a scintillating proclamation night at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater of the swank RCBC Plaza in Makati. Anthony Suntay and Shaan Bermudez hosted the event.

According to Meer, he decided to embark on the project to discover fresh talents who would promote his popular restaurant and act as ambassadors of goodwill for his popular piano bar in Makati.

MODELQUEST 2001 winners Joel Posadas and Moirra Yarr

Twelve female finalists and 12 male finalists paraded in casual outfits from Levi's, corporate wear from Bergamo and formal gowns created by members of the Young Designers Guild of the Philippines. The men wore Bergamo's patented suits and tuxedoes. Providing the musical numbers were Raymond Lauchengco and pianist and musical arranger Alejandro Consolacion, who provided the live musical backdrop for the formal wear segment of the pageant.

Adjudged top female winner during the dazzling pageant directed by designer Gerry Katigbak was Moirra Yarr, a stunning 13-year-old high school freshman from Southville International School. The top winner among the men was six-footer Joel Posadas, a second year mechanical engineering student.

Finalists were Gilmarie Pacamarra, Sasha Benito, Aulorence Alipoon and Mylene Cardozo, for the women; and Bim Cecilio, Kristian Uy, James Villanueva and Warly Aggalut, for the men. Winners of the various special awards were Pacamarra and Posadas, Best in Formals and Corporate Wear; Yarr and Villanueva, Best in Swimwear; Yarr and Posadas, Best in Levi's; Jericho Barrios and Mylene Cardozo, Most Photogenic; and Aumar Aguilar, Mr. Congeniality.

The distinguished board of judges included respected magazine general manager Thelma San Juan, fashion stylist Tina Maristela-Ocampo, Manila's knits queen Lulu Tan-Gan, actor Rustom Padilla, former New York model Joyce Meer, Philippine International School of Fashion director-general Andree Bellanger, society columnist Maurice Arcache, Love 14 Foundation chair Nini Licaros, Dancesport Council of the Philippines. president Becky Garcia, designer Dennis Lustico, Bulgari franchise-holder Mario Katigbak and sports impresario Bobong Velez.

ModelQuest 2001 was produced by Bergamo with Regine's Beauty Salon, Burgundy Condominium, Budski portraits and Dimensions Creative Works, a dynamic outfit composed of Jiggs Fernandez, Tyrone Suarez, Miguel Peña and JP de Guzman.

Here and there

PROMINENT couple in the local Spanish community, Paco and Becky de Liaño, inaugurated their newest residential building called Dordosato III in Quezon City with a cocktail reception graced by the Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja. Joining the new envoy in cutting the ceremonial ribbon were honorary consul of Togo Evie Costa and QC councilor Wilma Sarino. Paco, formerly with San Miguel Corp., is the head of the Spanish-Filipino Association of the Phils. His wife Becky is a daughter of the late QC Mayor Norberto Amoranto.

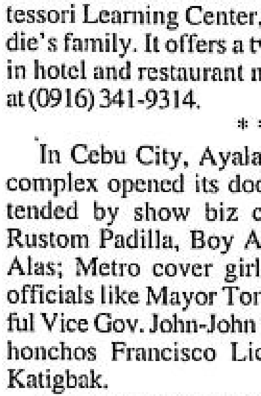
* * *

Seasoned hotel and restaurant manager Ferdie Capili has put his extensive experience into good use by putting up his very own College of Hotel and Restaurant Management in Balagtas, Bulacan. A hotel and restaurant management graduate from the University of the Philippines, with a degree in institutional food administration from the Philippine Women's University, Capili had worked for a number of major hotels in the country. He also worked as personal food-and-beverage manager to Sheik Mohamad Asmawi, once ranked as one of the richest men in the world. The school, which has been approved by the Technology and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), is a division of the Don Martin Montessori Learning Center, which is owned by Ferdie's family. It offers a two-year associate degree in hotel and restaurant management. Call Ferdie at (0916) 341-9314.

* * *

In Cebu City, Ayala Center's entertainment complex opened its doors with a smash gig attended by show biz celebs Randy Santiago, Rustom Padilla, Boy Abunda and Ai-Ai de las Alas; Metro cover girl Pia Guanio; top Cebu officials like Mayor Tommy Osmeña and youthful Vice Gov. John-John Osmeña; and Ayala Land honchos Francisco Licuanan III and Miriam Katigbak.

Occupying two levels of the northwest wing of the mall, it houses a string of popular restaurants and bars like Don Henrico's, Mi Vida, Bo's Coffee Club, Sol Y Luna, Bigby's Café and Ratsky's.



CHEF Ferdie Capili

AT THE OMEGA LAUNCH. Louie Vargas, Oliver Hugentobler, Andre Nunziata and Martin Lacson

AT THE INAUGURATION of Dordosato III Building in Quezon City: Becky de Liaño, Evie Costa, Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, Paco de Liaño and Wilma Sarino

---

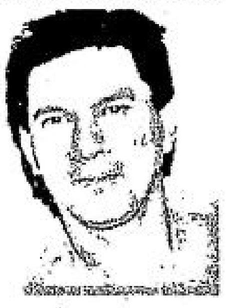
BONG Daza, Raylito Manglapus and Louie Ysmael

Venezia crowd

LOUIE Ysmael, the man behind Manila's premier night life, recently hosted a party at Venezia. The affair was attended by such couples as Kiko and Cheska Laurel, Jessica Rodriguez and David Bunevacz, Peng and Vickie Perez de Tagle, Edu Manzano and Rina Samson, Bebot and Gina Bello, Benjie and Yvette Sevilla, Dennis and Lizzie Arce, Jo Mike and Tet del Rosario.

Also present were Ysmael's partners—Chito Melo, Iñigo Zobel, Philip Cruz and Billie King. Spotted, too, were other fixtures in the night life such as Philip Cu-Unjieng, Louie Cruz, Boy Tinio, David Lim, EJ Litton. Also present were its sponsors such as Cecille Maravilla of Premier Wines & Spirits and Mike O' Connor of International Distillers Philippines Inc.

CECILLE Ysmael and Joji Dingcong



LOUIE Gonzales

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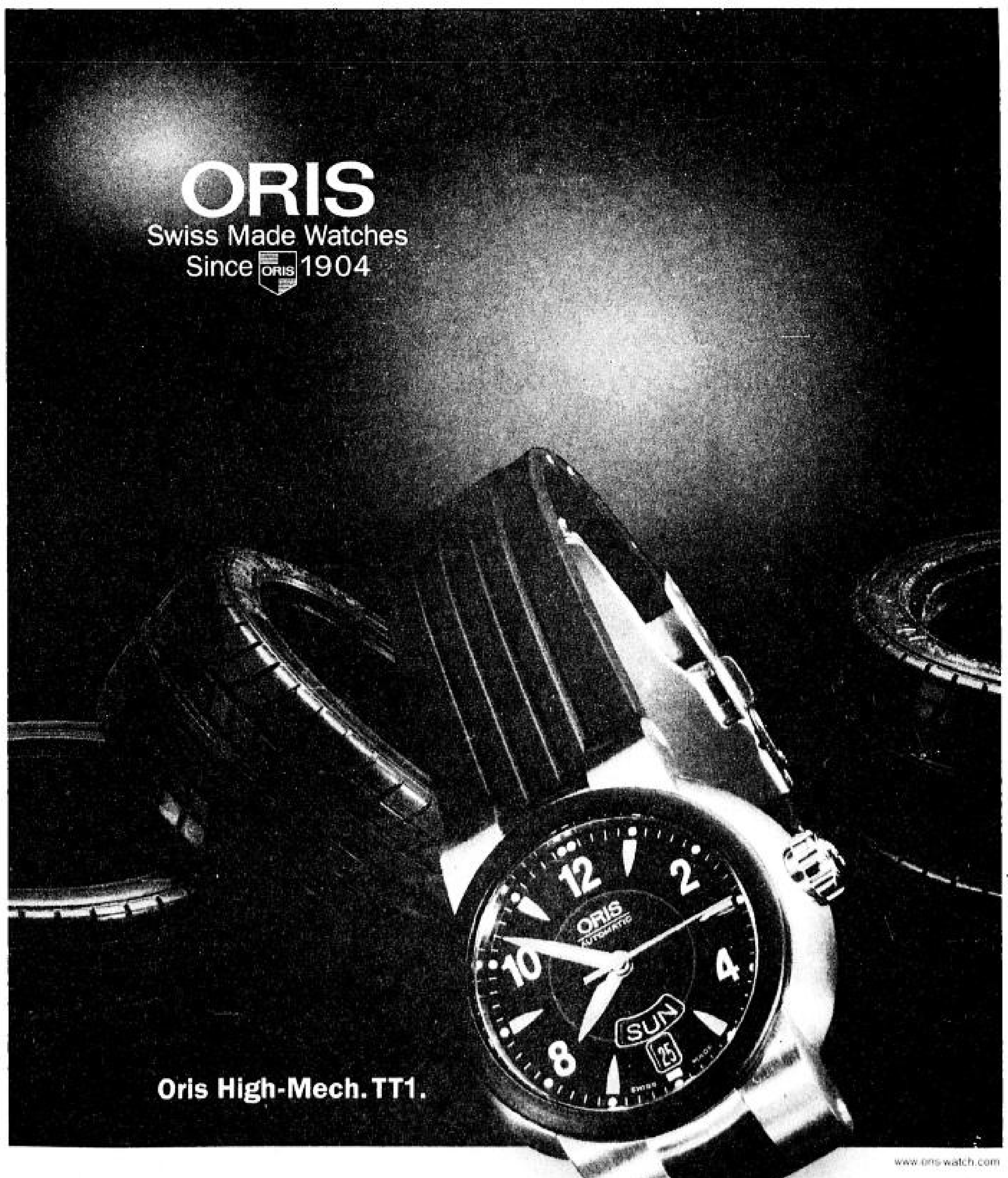
from 28 outlets in
Metro Manila,
Cavite & Bacolod

Inspirational
Christmas
Angels

only from:
FABRICARE CLEANERS

One Angel for every P1,000 receipt/s or add P50 with your P500 receipt/s from Nov. 23 - Dec. 24, 2001. Call 930-4672 or see poster for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1941 Series of 2001.

Excellent Laundry and Dry Clean Services for Homes and Institutions.



ORIS
Swiss Made Watches
Since 1904

Oris High-Mech. TT1.

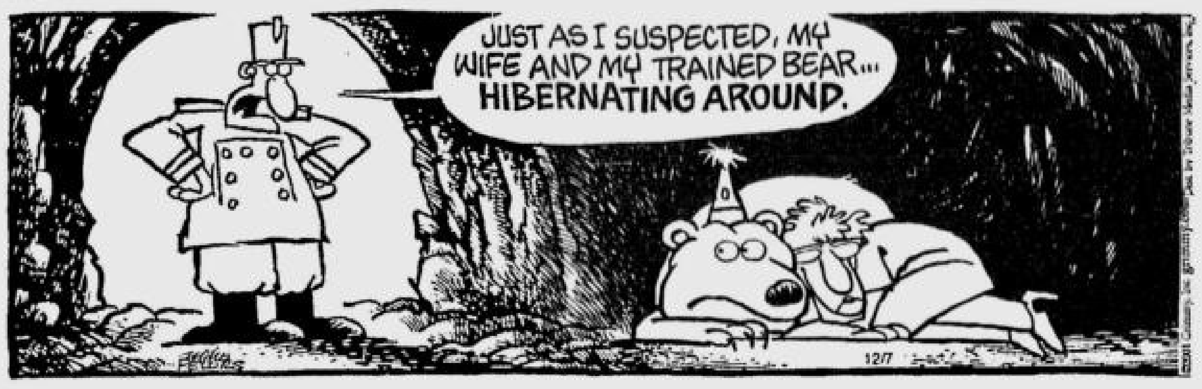
www.oris-watch.com

A mechanical watch with an entirely new approach: the Big Crown TT1 from Oris combines rubber and steel to embody speed and elegance. The strap, with tyre-tread pattern, and the top ring are made of vulcanised black rubber. Embedded into the massive stainless-steel case is a top-quality movement – a High-Mech masterpiece. Water resistant to a depth of 100 m, it is equipped with a screw-down crown and day/date displays. When every second counts, the Oris Big Crown TT1 keeps time on your side.

OFFICIAL SERVICE CENTER
WATCHWORKS. Level2, ALI MALL, Araneta Center, Quezon City
Level2, AYALA CENTER CEBU, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City

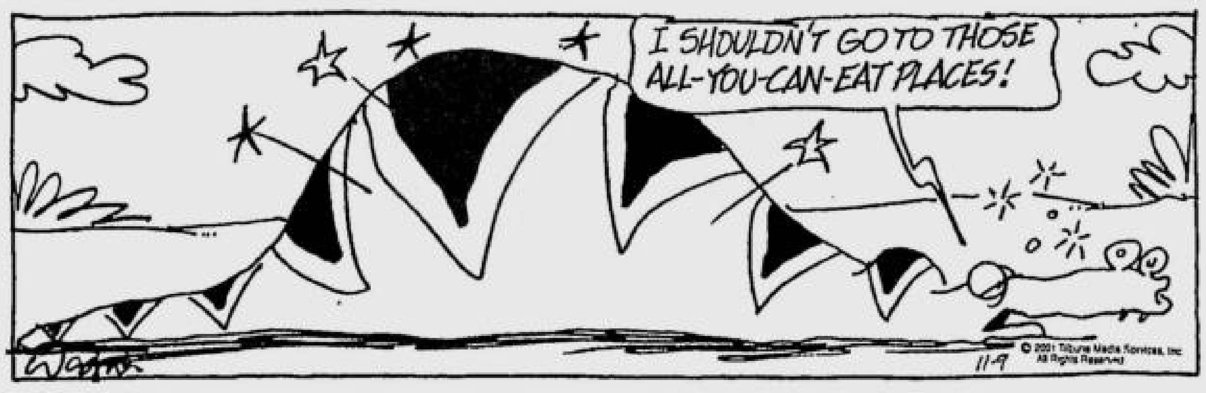
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


JUST AS I SUSPECTED, MY WIFE AND MY TRAINED BEAR... HIBERNATING AROUND.
12/7

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I SHOULDN'T GO TO THOSE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PLACES!
11-9
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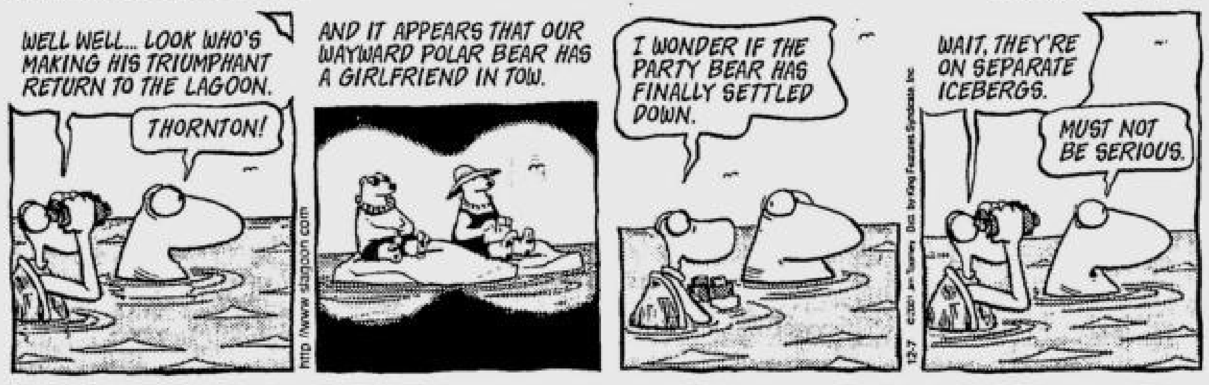
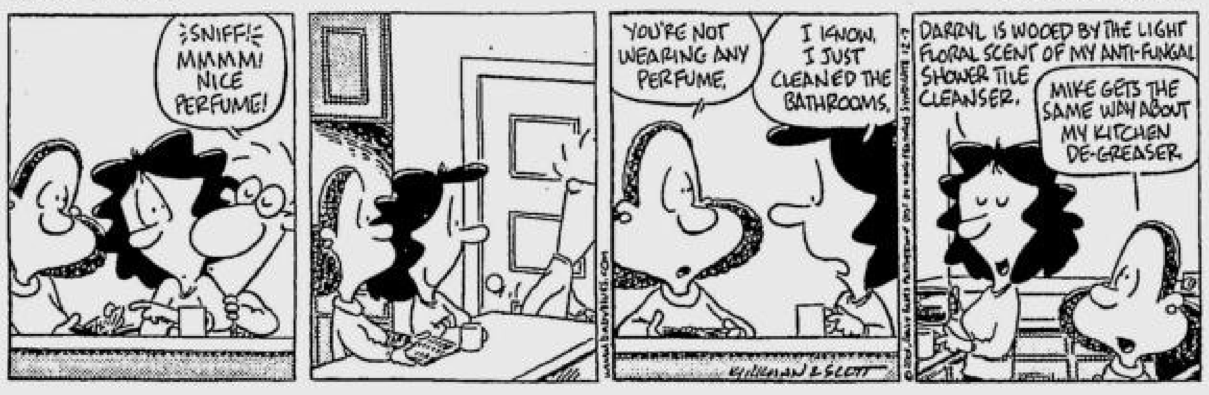
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL WELL... LOOK WHO'S MAKING HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO THE LAGOON.
THORNTON!
AND IT APPEARS THAT OUR WAYWARD POLAR BEAR HAS A GIRLFRIEND IN TOW.
I WONDER IF THE PARTY BEAR HAS FINALLY SETTLED DOWN.
WAIT, THEY'RE ON SEPARATE ICEBERGS.
MUST NOT BE SERIOUS.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-7

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SNIFF! MMMM! NICE PERFUME!
YOU'RE NOT WEARING ANY PERFUME.
I KNOW. I JUST CLEANED THE BATHROOMS.
DARRYL IS WOOED BY THE LIGHT FLORAL SCENT OF MY ANTI-FUNGAL SHOWER TILE CLEANSER.
MIKE GETS THE SAME WAY ABOUT MY KITCHEN DE-GREASER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Johnny Bench, Tino Martinez, Larry Bird, Priscilla Barnes, Ellen Burstyn, Tom Waits, Noam Chomsky

Happy Birthday: You will have to run a tight ship this year. Overspending or trying to do too much all at once will be your downfall. However, if you can gauge yourself some of your greatest accomplishments can come to pass. Be conservative, direct, well organized and thrifty in your spending habits and you will find your true calling. Your numbers: 3, 15, 27, 31, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic opportunities will mount if you are outgoing and eager to please. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. If you're single, get out there and you'll meet someone new

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't waste time sitting at home. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, the greatest new accessory for your house, the most wonderful place to dine, and so on and so on, if you get out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You always want to do too much for everyone. Making promises you can't possibly keep will come back to haunt you. Residential changes, renovations or moves are likely to disrupt your lifestyle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time to give back. Someone close to you may need help. Try to do things with a child or a family member that will enable you to bond closer to him or her. You may want to take creative courses .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is not the best time to take a risk, gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Your generous nature will be taken advantage of by unworthy candidates.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Overindulgence could easily turn into a problem for you or your family. Take a good look at all sides of a story before you make a decision that you will have to live with a long time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do a good deed and visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. You can make positive changes to your home if you spruce it up for the festive season.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are best to separate your personal and professional life . Don't let your emotions interfere with your productivity. You must not lend to a person who cannot pay you back. If you wish to give him or her a gift fine but don't expect a payback.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): . Emotional matters will not be easy for you to handle. You don't like confrontations at the best of times, however you may find them difficult to avoid if you have upset someone you care about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Travel should be on your agenda. You can pick up valuable information if you listen to those with more experience. The more you interact with others the better equipped you will be to deal with life issues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home improvement projects will bring the family closer together especially if you all pitch in and help. Expect to pay more than anticipated for entertainment or other purchases.

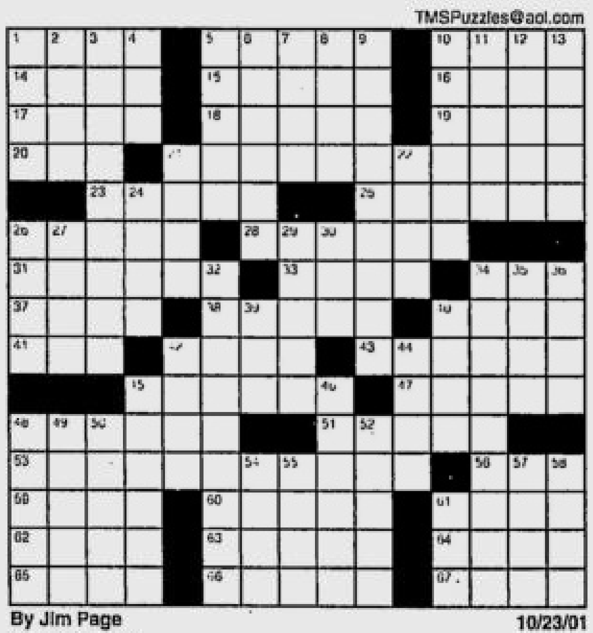
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spare your heart some grief. Sudden romantic encounters are evident however discretion will be a must. Don't expect new acquaintances to be completely honest with you. Be direct and ask him or her the necessary questions.

Birthday Baby: You like everything to be in order and well organized. You are serious minded and always concerned about others. You have plenty of discipline and will work very diligently in order to do things properly and with detail.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Of discos
5 Spread wide
10 Neighbor of Tex.
14 Aroma
15 Irish county
16 Business VIPs
17 Dark time in ads
18 Of the kidneys
19 Seniors' grp.
20 Rock composer Brian
21 Freak out
23 Goody Two-shoes
25 Black Sea port
26 Chef's garb
28 Pedestrian tunnel
31 Inspects
33 Speaker of baseball
34 Whitney's invention
37 Peril
38 Discover by chance
40 Lady from Lisboa
41 RRs on trestles
42 Center
43 Plant unions
45 Barber's tool
47 "__ Gay"
48 Makes amends
51 Unobstructed
53 Follow procedure strictly
56 Wow!
59 Opinion page, briefly
60 Rich or Worth
61 "Sixteen __"
62 Artifice
63 Drug cops
64 Faux pas
65 Sketch artist
66 Sen. Kefauver
67 Mary Baker or Nelson



By Jim Page
New York, NY

10/23/01

DOWN
1 Left
2 Frigg's husband
3 Start printing the news
4 Vein of iron
5 Young haddock
6 Academy frosh
7 Singer Cantrell
8 Sea east of the Caspian
9 Aging problem of paper
10 "The Plough and the Stars" playwright
11 "Lamia" poet
12 Nocturnal primate
13 Fido's org.
21 Gooey mass
22 McKinley and Cantor
24 Comic Chris
26 Field measure
27 Comic Silvers
29 Out-and-out
30 Sister's sib
32 Footwear finish
34 Attempt Olympic greatness
35 Part of ISS
36 Shuttle grp.
39 401K kin
40 Comic Carvey
42 Newsman Huntley
44 Stink and then some
45 Poet Gary
46 Wall bracket
48 Where Aesop shopped?
49 Refill
50 Past plump
52 Fertile loam
54 Notable times
55 Lahr or Parks
57 OK city
58 Spot in a crowd
61 Half an African fly?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

I	M	E	L	D	A	■	C	A	F	E	■	T	O	M
M	A	R	I	E	S	■	A	F	A	R	■	H	U	E
F	I	R	S	T	S	T	R	I	N	G	■	I	T	S
■	■	■	T	E	T	H	E	R	■	O	P	R	A	H
O	T	H	E	R	■	R	E	E	F	■	E	D	G	E
G	O	O	N	■	B	I	N	■	E	V	A	D	E	D
R	U	M	■	E	E	L	S	■	L	A	C	E	■	■
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	■	N	O	S	E	G	A	Y
■	■	S	A	Y	S	■	P	E	N	T	■	R	A	E
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I	N	R	E	■	S	O	N	S	■	B	E	E	P	S
E	V	E	R	T	■	S	H	O	O	I	N	■	■	■
S	I	T	■	S	E	C	O	N	D	G	U	E	S	S
T	L	C	■	A	R	A	L	■	D	O	R	S	A	L
A	S	H	■	R	A	R	E	■	S	T	E	E	L	Y

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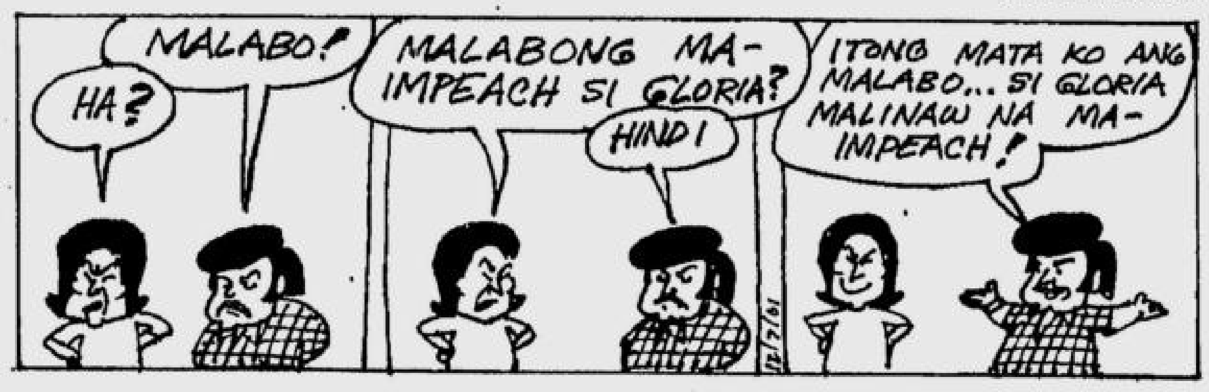
10/23/01

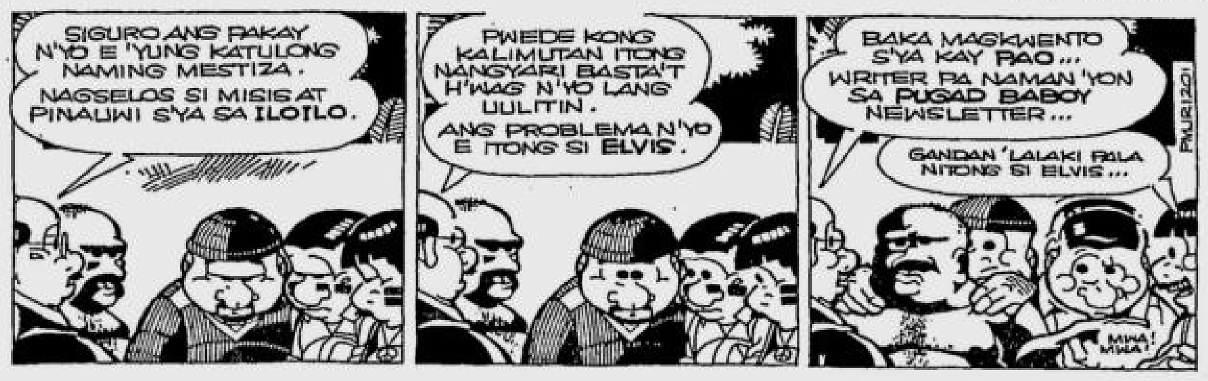
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HA?
MALABO!
MALABONG MA-IMPEACH SI GLORIA?
HINDI!
ITONG MATA KO ANG MALABO... SI GLORIA MALINAW NA MA-IMPEACH!
12/7/01

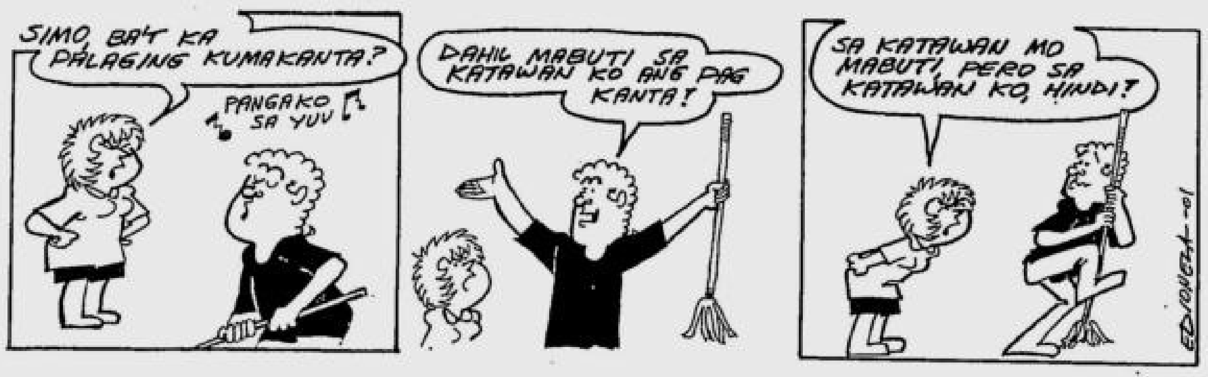
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIGURO ANG PAKAY N'YO E 'YUNG KATULONG NAMING MESTIZA.
NAGSELOS SI MISIS AT PINAUWI S'YA SA ILOILO.
PWEDE KONG KALIMUTAN ITONG NANGYARI BASTA'T H'WAG N'YO LANG UULITIN.
ANG PROBLEMA N'YO E ITONG SI ELVIS.
BAKA MAGKWENTO S'YA KAY PAO... WRITER PA NAMAN 'YON SA PUGAD BABOY NEWSLETTER...
GANDAN 'LALAKI PALA NITONG SI ELVIS...
MWA! MWA!
PMJR1201

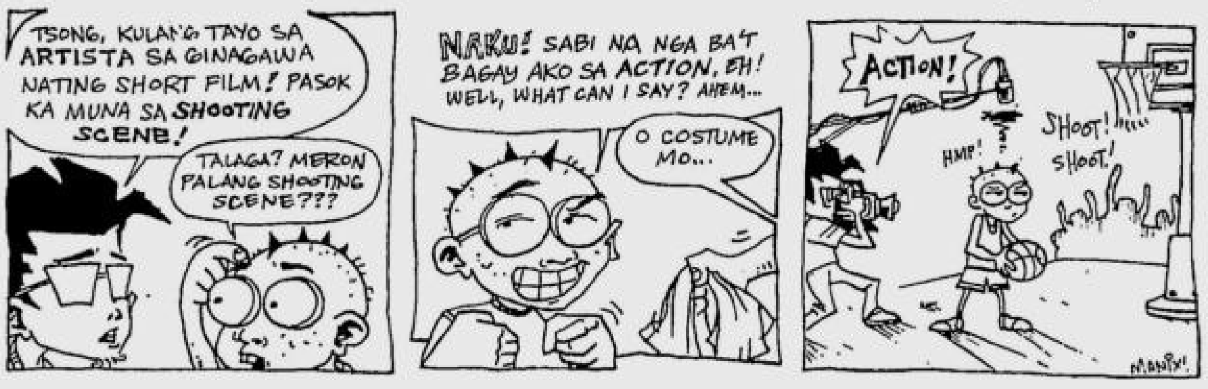
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, BA'T KA PALAGING KUMAKANTA?
PANGAKO SA YUU
DAHIL MABUTI SA KATAWAN KO ANG PAG KANTA!
SA KATAWAN MO MABUTI, PERO SA KATAWAN KO, HINDI?
EDIONELA-01

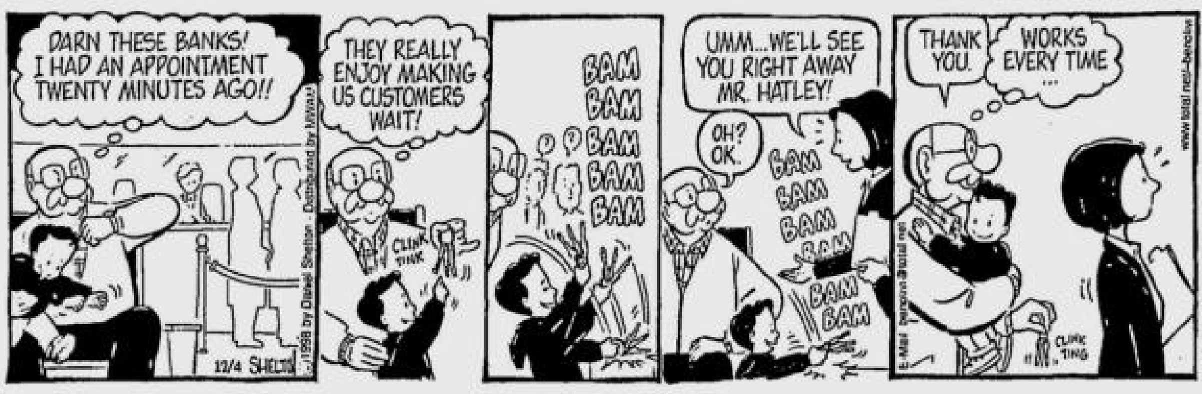
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


TSONG, KULANG TAYO SA ARTISTA SA GINAGAWA NATING SHORT FILM! PASOK KA MUNA SA SHOOTING SCENE!
TALAGA? MERON PALANG SHOOTING SCENE???
NAKU! SABI NA NGA BA'T BAGAY AKO SA ACTION, EH! WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY? AHEM...
O COSTUME MO...
ACTION!
HMP!
SHOOT! SHOOT!
MANIX!

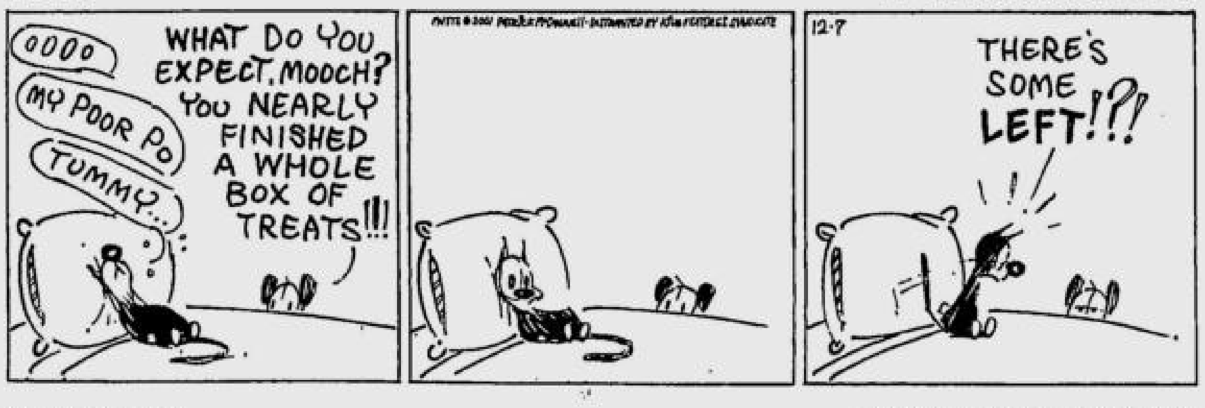
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DARN THESE BANKS! I HAD AN APPOINTMENT TWENTY MINUTES AGO!!
THEY REALLY ENJOY MAKING US CUSTOMERS WAIT!
CLINK TINK
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
UMM...WE'LL SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY MR. HATLEY!
OH? OK.
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
THANK YOU.
WORKS EVERY TIME ...
CLINK TING
12/4 SHELTON

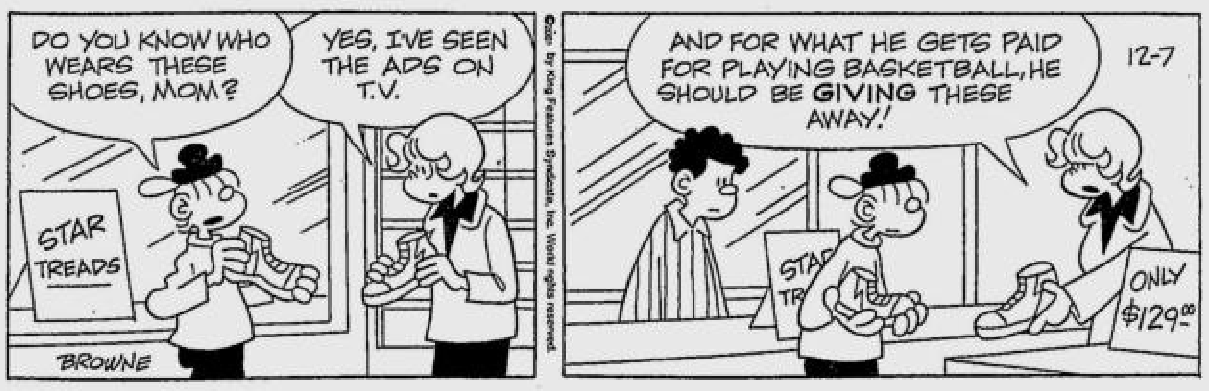
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOOO
MY POOR PO TUMMY...
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, MOOCH? YOU NEARLY FINISHED A WHOLE BOX OF TREATS!!!
12-7
THERE'S SOME LEFT!?!

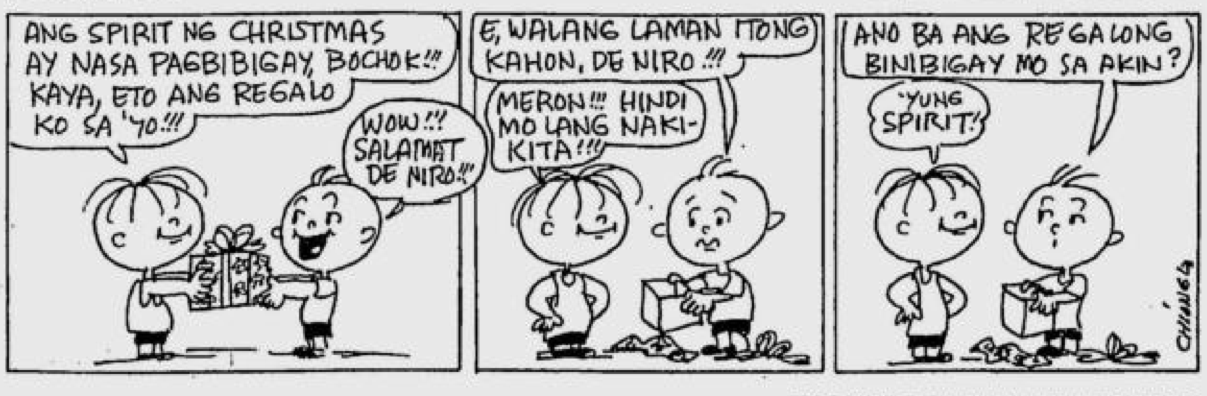
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DO YOU KNOW WHO WEARS THESE SHOES, MOM?
YES, I'VE SEEN THE ADS ON T.V.
STAR TREADS
BROWNE
AND FOR WHAT HE GETS PAID FOR PLAYING BASKETBALL, HE SHOULD BE GIVING THESE AWAY!
12-7
ONLY $129.00

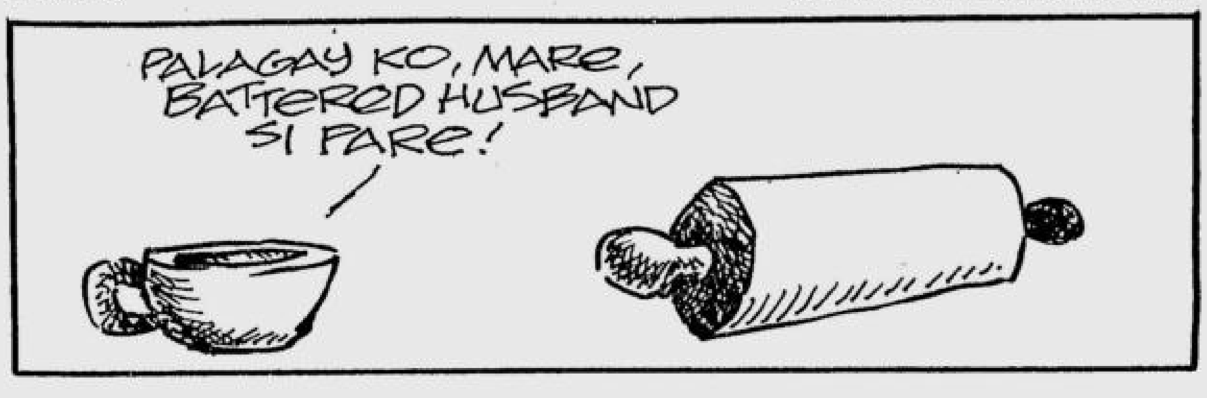
LOVEKNOTS

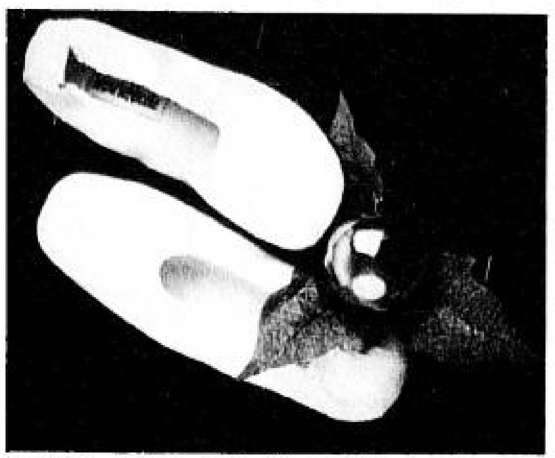
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SPIRIT NG CHRISTMAS AY NASA PAGBIBIGAY, BOCHOK!!! KAYA, ETO ANG REGALO KO SA 'YO!!!
WOW!!! SALAMAT DE NIRO!!!
E, WALANG LAMAN ITONG KAHON, DE NIRO!!!
MERON!!! HINDI MO LANG NAKIKITA!!!
ANO BA ANG REGALONG BINIBIGAY MO SA AKIN?
'YUNG SPIRIT!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PALAGAY KO, MARE, BATTERED HUSBAND SI PARE!



ULTRA comfortable ballerina flats for dancing, walking and just hanging around. Comes in white, black and beige.

Romancing the shoe

FIGLIA and Marie Nicole shoes for the holiday season display versatility, romance and femininity.

Clean, smart profiles are created through carefully refined soles for daytime practicality, while for evening women can enjoy a lighter sole with greater detail in shape and line. Shoes have thinner bottoms and generally have higher heels than last season.

Figlia is exclusively available in all SM Shoemart department stores nationwide. Marie Nicole is available in Landmark Makati, Robinsons Galleria Ermita, Robinsons Bacolod, Robinsons Pampanga, New Shoes Boutique Cebu, Gaisano Metro Colon Cebu, JS Gaisano Davao and Chancellor CSI Dagupan City.

Call 633-7691 local 130, (0917) 931-6142 or e-mail jve@i-manila.com.ph

Harry is the triumph of the single mom

(From page G1)

good achiever is a deprivation—be it of material comforts or psychic rewards. Thus in every manager we have, we, consciously or not, probe for any deprivation—that missing element in his/her life that will drive him/her to seek fulfillment or achievement. What will push him/her to get the work done. Job seekers have college or corporate résumés, each intended to impress, but not everyone has that deprivation from which springs the urge to make the difference in the company. We look for the hunger in each one.

And single moms or parents have that hunger—to be vindicated after a failed relationship, to prove one's worth after having been dumped by a husband, or if not that, to make a bigger thing out of life, not only for herself but also for her children whom she feels she has deprived of a normal home.

It is that seeking, that pursuit of deliverance from one's deprivation, that one doesn't learn in school; one learns it only from life, from having experienced pain, from having suffered.

Rowling admitted as much in an exclusive interview with writer **Ann Treneman** for a London newspaper. She said that without that failed marriage, there wouldn't have been a **Jessica** (her daughter) or Harry. "People do want life to be neat. That is undoubtedly true. But you know the four great truths of Buddha: the first one is 'Life is Suffering.' I love that. **I love that.** Because I think yes. Life is not supposed to be neat. And it's a comfort. It's a comfort to all of us who have messed up. And then you find your way back, bizarrely. And I'm sure to mess up again at some point—though, I hope, not on such a grand scale."

Her husband was a journalist she met in Portugal while she was teaching English (she got her A levels in French, German and English and went to Exeter University in the UK). Even when fame came to her, after 30 million books and 15 million pounds (now it's 110 million copies), she hit another low point when her ex-husband sold his story, as the interview with Treneman revealed. (Hmm, behind every woman achiever is a cad indeed.)

But going back to ordinary single moms. Your regular single mom may not be as philosophical as Rowling, and certainly not as rich (she's the second highest income earner in the UK, next only to **Madonna**, and ahead of the Queen). Not every single mom may want vindication or deliverance, but certainly each one wants to earn or at least be financially independent, to keep body and soul together. She has no choice.

The single mom is the biggest revelation of contemporary times, when women can bolt a marriage without necessarily being censured by society, enjoy their independence, and prove to be competent providers for their family. I'm not aware of any study done on the single mom, but if there were, I'm sure it will reveal single mothers to be a potent economic force. I'm sure in many corporations, their commitment and drive help spell the difference.

Multitasking

But beyond economics, the single mom masters—every day—the Herculean tasks of raising a family in as normal a way as possible, of handling the dirty old men in her workplace, of guarding her values while achieving her business agenda. And not to forget, she has to keep her bonding with the domestic help so the latter doesn't desert her, for she is rendered paralyzed if and when the *yaya* ups and leaves, more than the regular mom, for she has no husband to rely on. This is multitasking like no other.

And when she does try to have fun on a nightout, she carries the psychic burden of the children with her.

Apart from "Harry Potter," the achievement of a single mom is what I see in Rowling. Now that she has all the money in the world, she told her interviewer, her first thought was to buy her daughter toys and, of course, a house in the richer part of London. She said she was hardly inclined to shop for herself, and when she did, she just bought herself a ring—an aquamarine, not a diamond. She told Treneman, "A big one. I had it altered and when I got it back I said, 'This is my Statement Ring, my No One Is Grinding Me Down Ring.'"

That was why when someone suggested to us in publishing to produce a book like "Harry Potter," I nearly choked with laughter. It was not only audacious, it was ridiculous. "Harry Potter" was borne out of a single mom's need; behind this postmodern fairy tale is the most real suffering the postmodern times can produce—that of a single mom. You'd need another suffering author to embark on such flights of imagination. For "Harry Potter" wasn't patterned after a fantasy or fairy tale, even if it's about magic; it's a most enthralling concoction of a lifestyle, which happens to be that of a wizard.

"Harry Potter" is a literature of lifestyle. It is a vast universe of details and it's the details—of life in Hogwarts, of the quidditch game, for instance—that keep you glued to the pages. It's not really the plot, but how Harry and his cohorts live from day to day, down to the class lectures and Halloween feast they have, that teases your imagination. It is also what no movie can capture in full, down to the minutest detail. That is why "Harry Potter" is the triumph of print over the visual medium that is the movie, the triumph of reading over the mere passive act of watching the action in a movie theater. When you read "Harry Potter," you imagine; when you watch "Harry Potter," you just watch.

Spellbinding

Of course, "Harry Potter" the movie is spellbinding—like any fantasy movie or action thriller is. But Harry Potter the book is spellbinding—like no other.

When you read, you participate by activating your imagination. And you let your imagination go on and on, which is why you move on to the next Potter book. And when you finally finish the fourth Potter, you yearn for more, because your imagination is already committed to the lifestyle habits at Hogwarts.

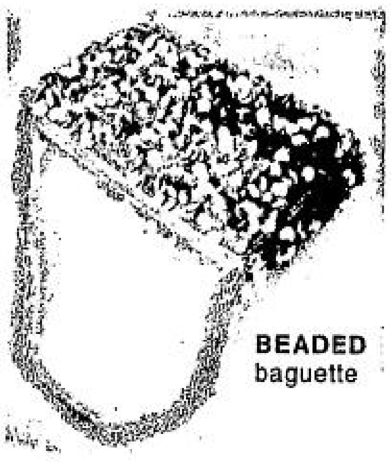
To hear her recall it, Rowling didn't outline her books. In an exclusive interview with Hello magazine, she described the day she got the idea for her story: "I can remember the day in 1990 as though it is tattooed on my mind forever. The idea for the stories came to me while I was on one of those long train journeys from the North of England to London. The amazing and magical thing is that the character of Harry just popped into my head fully formed. It was all quite spooky!"

At that time she had a day job at Amnesty International doing research on human rights abuses in Africa.

Now this single mom is supposed to complete seven books of Potter, each one for every year in Harry's boarding school. But more than the books yet to be published, you wonder where the life of this famous single mom goes from here. Given her fame and fortune, will she remain a single mom for long? Or will a man catch her?

Hope not. Her fairy tale has really no use for a frog.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



BEADED baguette

Shoes and bags for any occasion

CMG (Celine Mix Group) releases its holiday collection of shoes and bags that range from the trendy to the classics, casual to the formal.

New shoe labels like Jaime Mascaro (Hong Kong), Martines Valerio (Spain), Lewre (Malaysia) and Unisa (Spain) are also being offered. For imported bags, the brands are Puntotres (Spain), Studio (Hong Kong) and BKK.

CMG shoes stores are located at 2/F Glorietta IV, Makati; Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; 3/F Alabang Town Center, 2/F Moiselle, Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

MERRY monochromatic dresses in rainbow satin

Looking pretty for Christmas

THE CHILDREN'S Wear Department of all SM stores unveils its holiday collection that will give little girls the right clothes to look pretty for the holidays.

The holiday collection includes dresses in faille, satin and georgette in the most exuberant of colors. They come in dainty rose bud embroidery, flower embellishments, ribbons and appliqued bows, or with a sprinkling of beadwork and sequins.

Student fashion on TV

"SUNBURST," designed by Hazel de Ramos, won the award for Most Creative Use of Material from cutting-edge designer Ignacio Loyola. It is a set of easy-fitting garments with quilt and patchwork patterns.

Ramos' creations were among those showcased in the fashion show "10.05.01: A Date with the Future of Fashion" held at the Glorietta 4 Park, organized by Clothing Technology students of the University of the Philippines.

"The Science of Faashion" will be aired over IBC-13 tomorrow, 3-4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IS STILL MERRY WITH WENDY'S

BIG-A-BOOM

MEAL COMBOS!

Celebrate Christmas with lots of great-tasting food at very affordable prices! PLUS, have great gifts and more party bonus if you book your party with us!

CHOOSE FROM THESE FOUR BOOMING COMBOS!

BOOM 1 Hamburger & Spaghetti Combo P69
•1 Juicy Hamburger
•2 Servings Super Value Spaghetti
•Large Softdrink

BOOM 2 Chicken & Macaroni Combo P69
•1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
•2 servings rice
•Macaroni Salad
•Large Softdrink

BOOM 3 Chicken & Spaghetti Combo P79
•1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
•2 servings Super Value Spaghetti
•Large Softdrink

BOOM 4 Chicken & Chili Rice Combo P89
•1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
•2 servings rice
•Chili con Carne bowl
•Large Softdrink

* Each combo is served in one container

BIG-A-BOOM PARTY BONUS

BONUS! FREE 30 Wendy's Coupon Booklet for every 30 orders of any of the combo meals.
Surprise gift pack for the party coordinators.
Second party bonus-get 5% worth of your party bill in gift certificates.
Refer- a -friend- get P100 gift certificate when your friend books a party.

HAVE BIG-A-BOOM MEAL COMBOS AT WENDY'S THIS CHRISTMAS!

Visit us or call 8095506 loc. 305 / 312
Also available for delivery (no softdrink included) at 533-33-33
Available for a limited time only.

Wendy's HAMBURGERS
It's The Best Time For Wendy's

Italian labels at half price

BLUE short sleeve shirt and pants by Dolce & Gabbana, denim jacket by Giubbotto

A "PRICE War" will be waged at all Linea Italia and Corso Marconi stores in Metro Manila and Cebu starting today. The "war" continues while supply lasts.

All clothes, shoes, bags and accessories from Italy's hottest labels will be available at half their prices (including already discounted items). These include selections from Versace, Gianfranco Ferre, Dolce & Gabbana, Stefanel, Mariella Burani, Philosophy di Alberta Feretti, Max Mara, Sportmax, Pietrogrande, Trussardi, Messori, Gai Mattiolo, Pinko, Guiducci, Henry Cottons, Pal Zileri, Navajos, Marco Gabbriellini, etc.

Visit Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Italia (SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, SM Cebu and Park Square I), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu), Viva (SM Megamall, SM Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu) and Corso Marconi at Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch), Festival Supermall Alabang, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila, Cebu and the new Corso Marconi Bacolod.

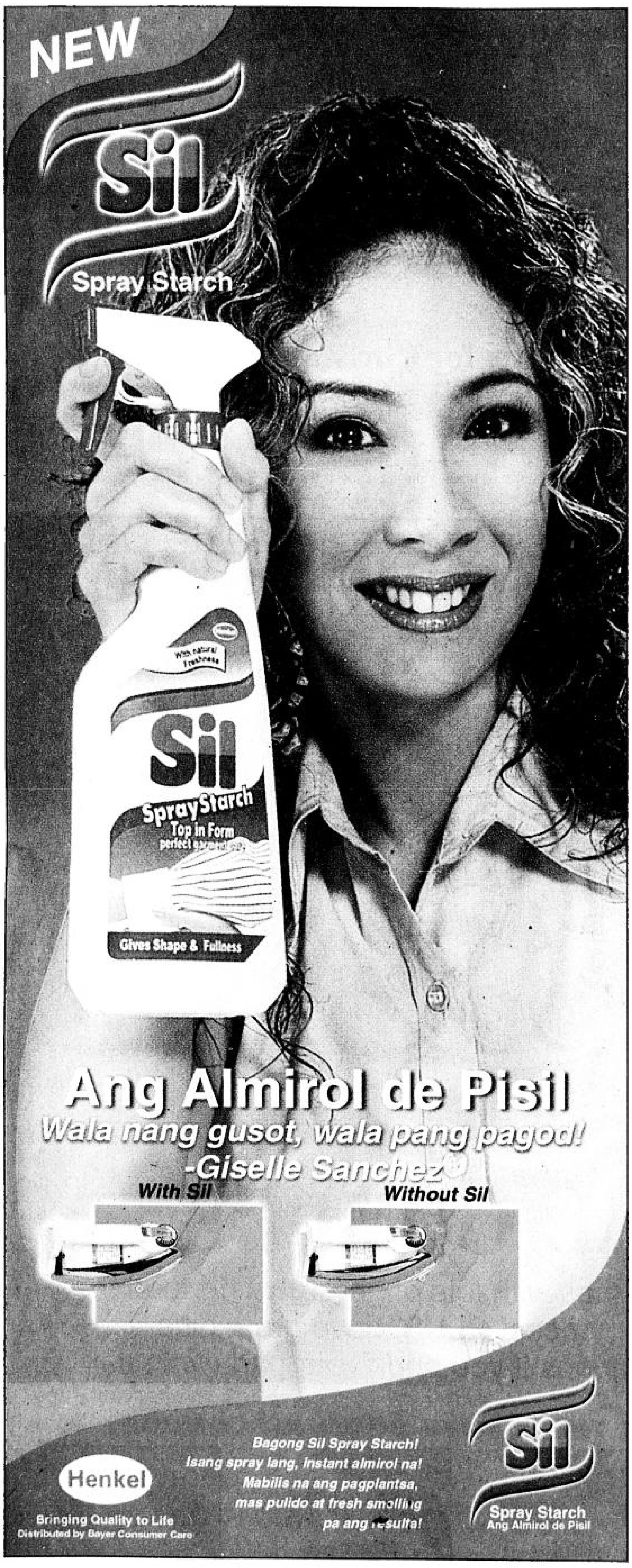
"METRO Models" Melissa Chua, Doraine Cuaso, Missy Herber, Wilma Doesnt, Chris, Maxine Chua, Sari-Sari's GP Reyes, 99.5 RT's DJ Winner, Honey Delisan, Hutu's Hut's Dennis Riego and Metro's Ria Tangco

'Witches' party after Halloween

HUTU'S Hut Restaurant and Bar on Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City had the ghouls and witches out after Halloween in a masquerade ball on Nov. 3.

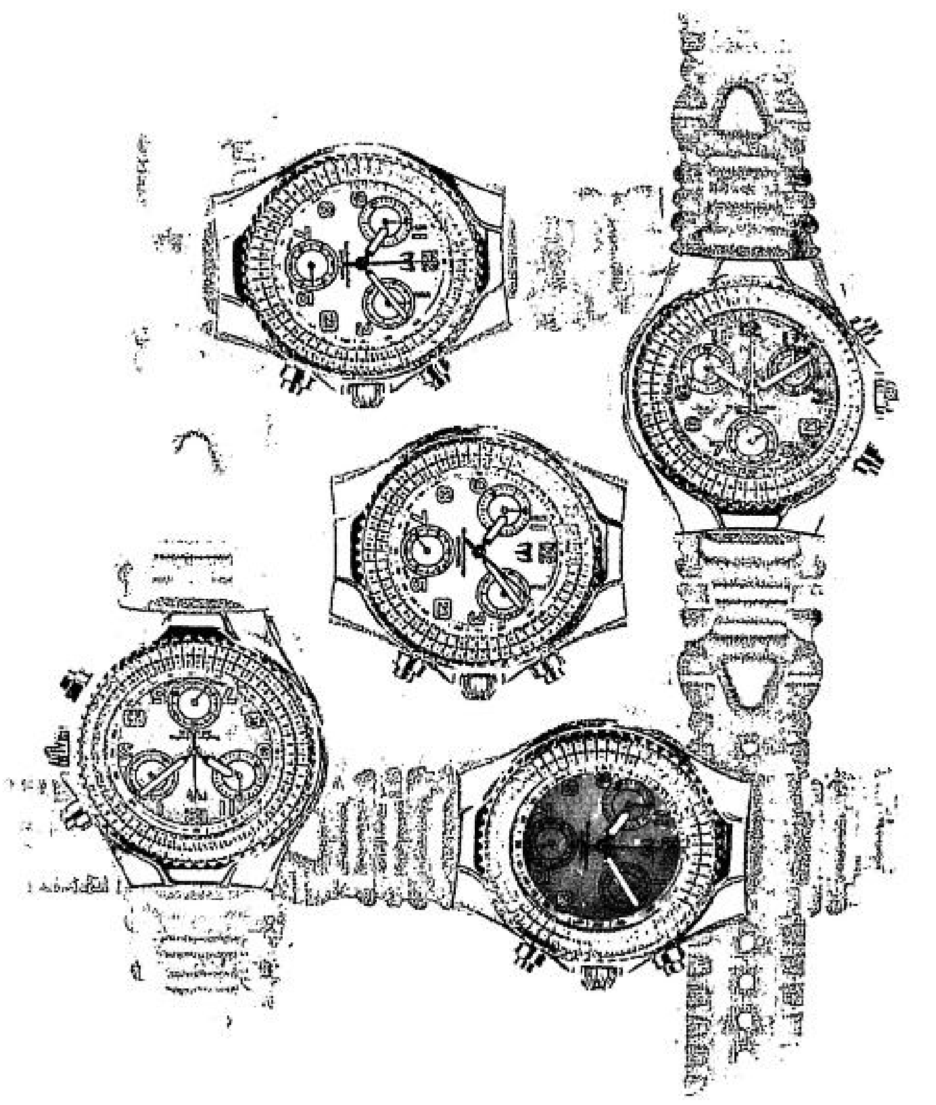
Produced by Metro Magazine, Sari Sari, 99.5 RT and Hutu's Hut, "Assault Your Senses," which featured the Elements band, drew spooky but alluring creatures dressed up by Sari-Sari. Models Doraine Cuaso, Missy Herber, Honey Delisan, Maxine Chua, Melissa Chua and Wilma Doesnt were Lady Executioner, Medusa, She-Devil, Cat Woman, Witch and Vampire.

FROM LEFT. Monet Garcia, Dina Bonnevie, Cielo Petines, Tonypet Albano, Howie Callejas, Gerard Ceballos, JP Campos, Brian Masigan and Sandy Henson



NEW
Sil
Spray Starch
With natural Freshness
Sil
SprayStarch
Top in Form
Gives Shape & Fullness
Ang Almirol de Pisil
Wala nang gusot, wala pang pagod!
-Giselle Sanchez
With Sil
Without Sil
Bagong Sil Spray Starch!
Isang spray lang, instant almirol na!
Mabilis na ang pagplantsa,
mas pulido at fresh smelling
pa ang resulta!
Henkel
Bringing Quality to Life
Distributed by Bayer Consumer Care
Sil
Spray Starch
Ang Almirol de Pisil

TIME never looked this good



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TechnoMarine Enterprises Philippines Inc. Tel. (632) 6363398 Fax (632) 6363399 **Rafael Jewellery** 2nd Level, Shangri-la Edsa Mall, Edsa cor. Shaw, Mandaluyong City Tel. 6363398 **Rafael Jewellery** 2nd Floor, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City (opens December 20) **My Diamond** 2nd Floor Glorietta 4, Ayala Center Makati City Tel. 8172764 **WISH** Unit 121, Shangri-la Shopping Arcade, Ayala Avenue 1226 Makati City Tel. 8673850 **Washington** Rockwell R1 Level, Powerplant Mall, Makati City

as seen in VOGUE GIOIELLO

See fireworks light up the night sky.

Fireworks shows at Ayala Center Makati every Friday at 8 p.m. and every Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. from November 23 to December 22 at the Glorietta 4 Park. At the Alabang Town Center, it's on every Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. from Dec. 1 to 30 at the Town Plaza. At the Ayala Center Cebu, see the lights at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8, and 8 p.m. on Dec. 16 and 23 in the lagoon area.

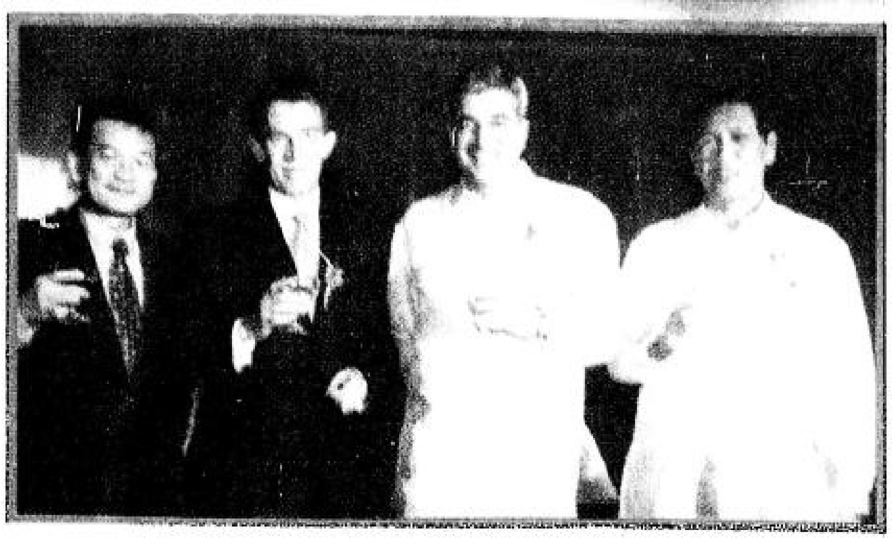
Beginning Dec. 1, 2001, get a commemorative shopping bag for a minimum purchase.

AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU

A Latin thanksgiving for One Roxas Triangle

THE PRECISE grace of flamenco and the romance of Latin beat ushered in the eclectic, electric thanksgiving party that officially launched Ayala Land's most ambitious, highly anticipated luxury residential project to date: the generously spacious One Roxas Triangle. Held at the excellently manicured grounds of the property, the event was hosted by TV personality Ces Oreña Drilon.

MR. and Mrs. Miguel Celdran, Mr. and Mrs. Patxi Elizalde and Pamen Elizalde.



ADELBERTO Legasto, SVP for assets management and trust account, Bank of the Philippine Islands; Robert Sallnow-Smith, chief executive, Hong Kong Land; Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chairman, Ayala Land Inc., and Francisco Licuanan, president, Ayala Land Inc.

"From the beginning, we wanted One Roxas Triangle to set a standard in luxury living developments in the country, and hopefully in the region," said Ayala Land's Chairman Fernando Zobel in his welcome remarks. With him leading the ceremonial toast were Ayala Land President Francisco Licuanan, Hongkong Land Limited Chief Executive Robert Sallnow-Smith, and SVP for Asset Management and Trust Account of Bank of the Philippine Islands, Adelberto Legasto. After the toast, the modern minimalist waterwall beside the stage was switched on, coupled with a confetti shower that had everyone cheering and applauding.

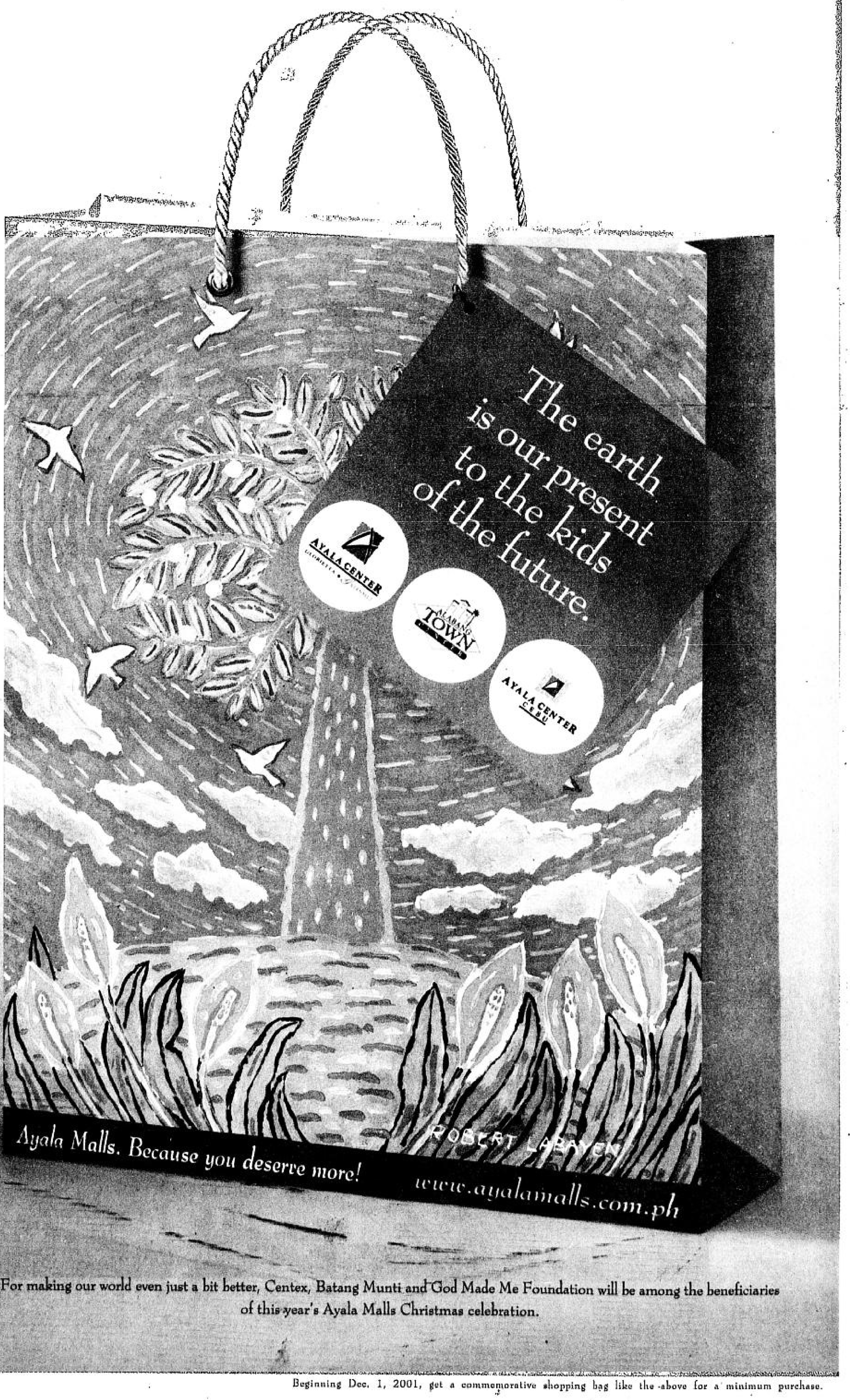
The cool breeze of the holidays easily gave the evening an added romance, coupled with the women guests coming in colorful, fluid outfits that were so in tune with the welcoming bossa nova music from the Latin band Aquarella performing onstage. For an added entertainment, flamenco dancer Emma Estrada performed to an awed crowd.

> *Buyers and those privileged few who are already residents of One Roxas Triangle made up the well-heeled crowd that gathered that evening*

Buyers and those privileged few who are already residents of One Roxas Triangle made up the well-heeled crowd that gathered that evening.

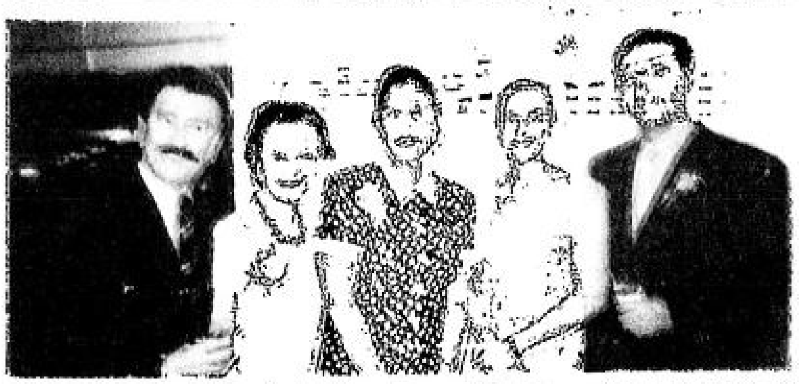
After the programme at the breathtakingly beautiful lawn, the party continued at the al fresco Parkland located at the podium (Third Level) whose centerpiece is a gorgeous lagoon-type pool. Being surrounded by the lush landscaping, not a few commented it transported them to a truly different place, miles away from the hustle and bustle of the business district. Latin dance favorites performed by the band Onda Latina kept the night alive as guests enjoyed the overflowing food and drinks. While some checked the top-of-the-line facilities at the fitness center, sauna, air-condition squash court and covered tennis court, not a few took the earlier invitation to check out the units at the 32nd floor which promised an amazing view of the city.

Indeed, the birth of One Roxas Triangle was an evening of reverie, luxury and the promise of great times ahead.


The earth is our present to the kids of the future.
AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
ROBERT LABAYEN
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

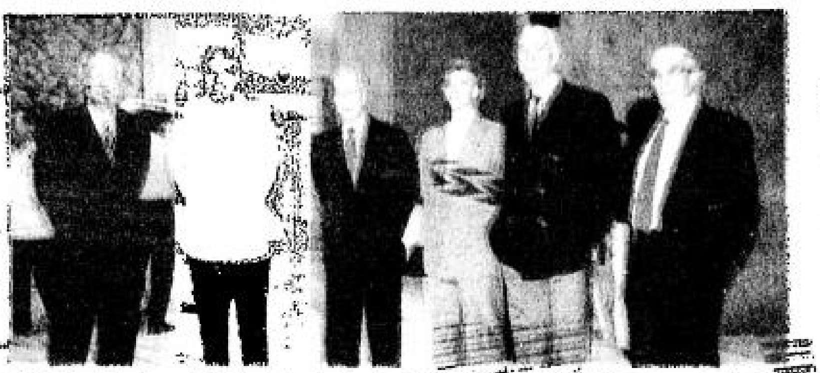
For making our world even just a bit better, Centex, Batang Munti and God Made Me Foundation will be among the beneficiaries of this year's Ayala Malls Christmas celebration.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2001, get a commemorative shopping bag like the above for a minimum purchase.



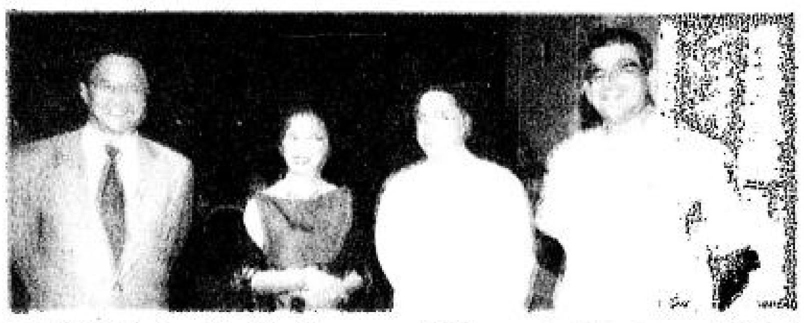
MAURICE Arcache, Backy Celdran, Pamen Elizalde, and Mr. and Mrs. Patxi Elizalde.

LINA Thomas, Cory Roberto, Peng Quisumbing, Zeny Alcaraz, Nida Vertucio and Ofie Jacomina.



P.L. Lim, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Ariston Estrada, Davide Edwards, Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Mr. Picornell.

DAPHNE Oseña, Javi Hernandez, Francisco Licuanan, Kit Zobel and Angel Aquino.



RAMON Medina, Marivic Añonuevo, Ed Coronel, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

ARISTON Estrada, daughter of Chemma Estrada, Ofie Jacomina, Chemma Estrada and Al Legaspi.

Most of the materials that were used were imported from all over the world and were chosen based on their extra-ordinary beauty and durability

Model Suites are open for viewing. For particulars, please call: Roxas Land Corp., Marketing Center, One Roxas Triangle, Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City. Tel. Nos. 750-0000, 750-4000 and 750-7000 or contact AY
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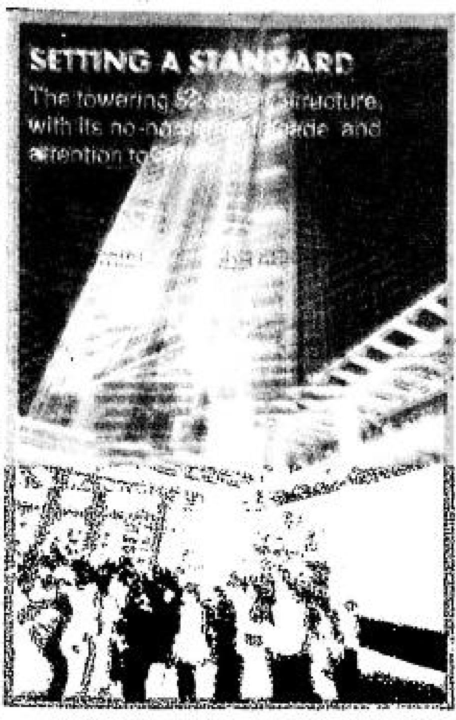
One Roxas Triangle sets new standard in luxury living development



SETTING A STANDARD
The towering 52-[illegible] structure, with its no-[illegible] facade and attention to [illegible]

SWEATING IN LUXURY
The Roxas Fitness Center is equipped with training equipment designed in Italy and

FINALLY, it's ready. Once again, Ayala Land has pushed the bar of quality, the standards of luxury living development, with its latest offering—One Roxas Triangle—the 52-storey luxury condominium that sprawls across 11,812 square meters of prime lot between Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue. Now fully completed, One Roxas Triangle is one of the hottest properties on the market thanks in large part to Ayala Land's reputation for excellent property management.

Mr. Virgilio A. Madrazo, President of TCGI Engineers, construction management group hired by Ayala Land, describes One Roxas Triangle as the "mother of all luxury residential establishments" as far as quality is concerned. "We have never worked on a project of this magnitude. The technology that went into the building alone—from the quality control 'punchlisting' software to the security system—and the guidelines that were used to ensure that every square inch of the building is in keeping with the highest standards are staggering," he says, "To date, I don't think there's any building in the country that has been as meticulously constructed as One Roxas Triangle."

Peter Young, the property's resident building manager, agrees, "The building is at par with the best buildings in New York and Hong Kong where the standards for building technology are extremely high."

"Most of the materials that were used were imported from all over the world and were chosen based on their extraordinary beauty and durability," says Young. The intricate flooring system, for instance, consists of four layers aimed at reducing noise and complies with the acceptable level mandated by New York's Building Code. To further reduce noise, the glass surrounding the residences most affected by noise from ground level traffic are double-glazed for sound-proofing. The bathroom fixtures are equipped with Dornbracht bathroom fittings while the Dorf bathtub is made with pressed titanium steel for strength and features Hush Pad sound-deadening material to minimize resonance when filling a bath or showering.

It is details such as these that make living at One Roxas Triangle unique. Young says that these details are what makes the difference for their target market which consists of people who have traveled all over the world and have been exposed to the best the world has to offer. "These are people who are used to having the best of everything."

To have Peter Young describe the luxurious materials is awe-inspiring but it is doubly so when Chris Woodrow, task management and finishes coordinator of architectural finishing firm John Laing, goes on about the project.

"Quality assurance is all about getting it right the first time and every time," explains Woodrow, "This not only makes the client happy, it also reduces the overall cost of the project."

The heart of quality assurance is the task management or "punchlisting" system that John Laing developed in the United Kingdom and improved in the Philippines. "The task management system that we used for One Roxas Triangle is currently the most advanced in the world. Even far more advanced than the one we developed in the UK," says Woodrow. The system divides every residential unit into sections and details every piece of material used for each section. Every piece of finish, pipe and wire is accounted for, checked for quality and rechecked before being turned over to TCGI Engineers for final inspection and acceptance.

ROXAS/ H4

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FERNANDO Zobel de Ayala, Angela Lacson, Emma Estrada and Marivic Añonuevo.

LIZZIE Zobel, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Marivic Añonuevo, Javi Hernandez and May Lopez.

One Roxas Triangle sets new standard . . .

(From page H3)

Jun Perey, Supervising Architect for Customer Relations of Ayala Land, adds that they also make an effort to accommodate a potential buyer's requests. "Oftentimes, a unit owner wants to add a personal touch to the unit by adding to or renovating certain sections and we work closely with them and help them achieve what they want while ensuring the integrity of the unit's structure and materials."

But beyond the luxurious amenities and excellent quality assurance, One Roxas Triangle is also differentiated by its management's excellent service. "We are the only residential building that offers full concierge service," says Marjie Duque, deputy building manager of One Roxas Triangle. Having a concierge means residents can expect assistance with everything—from making airline reservations to ordering flowers or getting concert tickets—24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With luxury, quality and service this defined, it is little wonder that One Roxas Triangle is considered by real estate insiders as the most valuable residential real estate on the market today. Woodrow says that by combining their strengths with those of Hong Kong Land, Ayala Land has created a masterpiece whose sum is ultimately greater than its parts.

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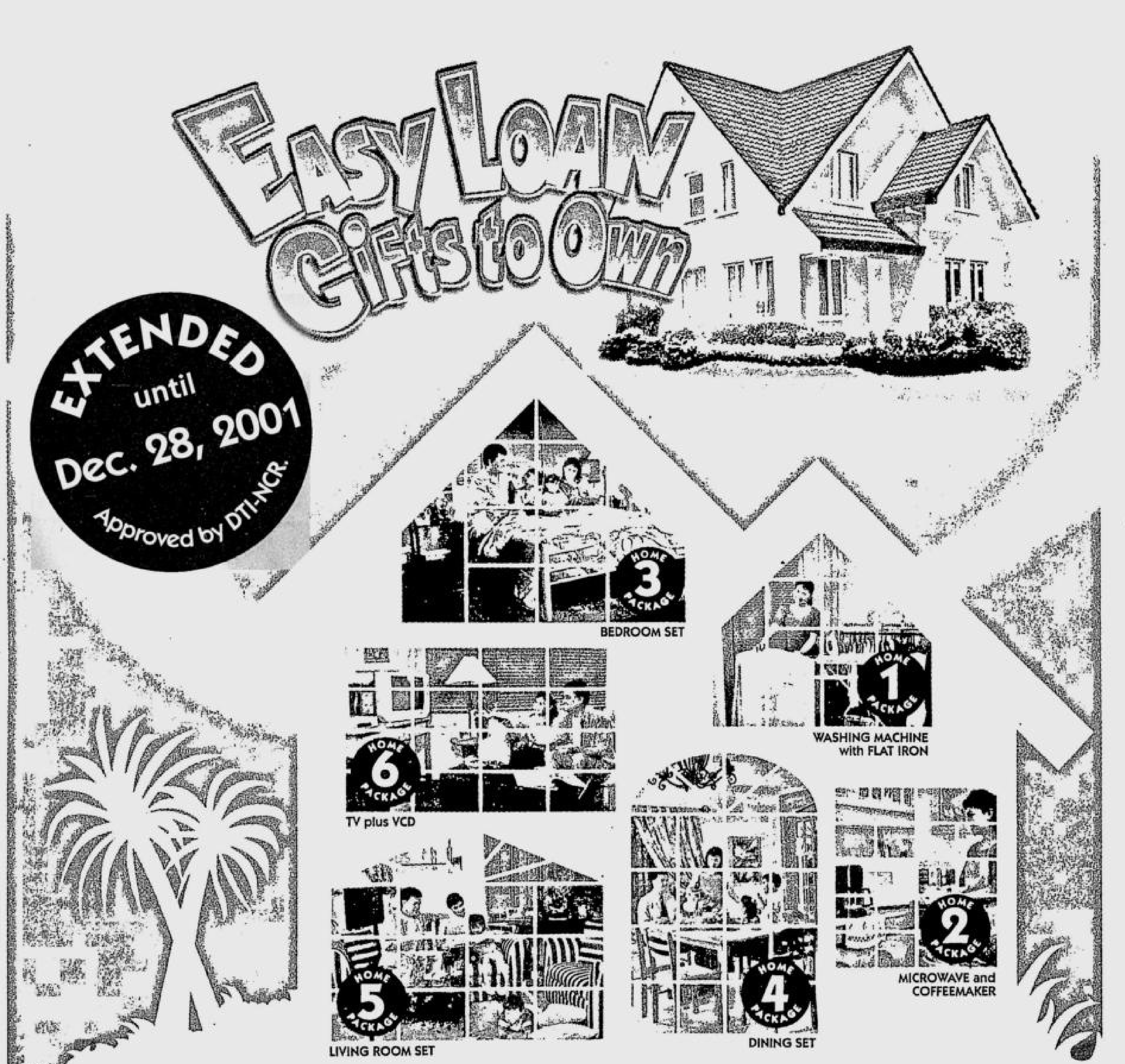

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3. This offer is valid in the Greater Metro Manila Area as well as those covered by the BPI Family Bank Business Centers.
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Housing Loan Amount	Easy Loan Gift Package
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₱ 2M to ₱ 3,999,999.99	Microwave Oven and Coffeemaker
₱ 4M to ₱ 5,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
₱ 6M to ₱ 7,999,999.99	Dining Set
₱ 8M to ₱ 9,999,999.99	Living Room Set
₱ 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

5. Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption of prizes is until February 28, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
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10. This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.
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MR. and Mrs. Manny Samson and Claudia Bermudez Mr. and Mrs. Manny Samson and Claudia Bermudez

FLAMENCO AT ITS BEST

At the One Roxas Triangle launch, Emma Estrada perfectly set the tone for the Latin-inspired evening by performing a beautiful flamenco dance which had everyone in awe.

AL and Nena Casimiro

MARISSA Sycip and Lizzie Zobel.